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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Senate OKs marijuana bill

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Senate passed yesterday a bill that legalizes the use of marijuana and related industries for regulation and sets up an age limit for the use and possession of the substance.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar's (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-62 passed the Senate on a vote of 6-0 and three abstentions.

The bill allows the use of marijuana for both medicinal and recreational purposes; sets up an age limit for its use; and sets up a governmental entity

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Joshua Alfred wins Ninth Circuit Civics contest

» Melchor, Manase, and Ocampo get top prize in video category

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Joshua Alfred won first place in the essay competition, while Jeff Melchor, Angelo Manase, and Justin Ocampo won first place in the video category at the district level in the 2018 Ninth Circuit Civics contest for high school students.

In the essay division, Eric Kiser grabbed the second place award, while Maria Gregoire got third place. Theresa Zheng and Monica Aira Usi were awarded honorable mention.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy announced the winners last Tuesday afternoon.

Manglona and Kennedy said that, unlike last year when they knew the schools of the

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BACCALAUREATE MASS

RAY TRAVILLA/NMC

Northern Marianas College 2018 graduates pose after their baccalaureate Mass at Mount Carmel Cathedral. The college will be graduating the biggest number of students at its commencement exercise on Saturday, May 19, 2018, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

'We have a rich history here'

"It's all up to the CNMI Legislature now," said Hyatt senior vice president for operations in the Asia Pacific Thomas Smith, left, with regard to Hyatt's pending lease extension. With him is Hyatt vice president in Japan and Micronesia Sam Sakamura in a media briefing yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Saipan for the first time and pleased with what Hyatt Regency Saipan has become over the years, a senior Hyatt official expressed the corporation's fervent hope that the hotel's lease would be extended.

During a media briefing at the presidential suite of the

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April arrivals dip but Japan arrivals jump

As projected, total visitor arrivals to the Marianas for the fiscal year are holding steady compared to the same period last year at 365,536 visitors, less than 3 percent off last year's mark.

Although visitor arrivals to the Marianas dipped 6 percent in April 2018 compared to April 2017, the figure was buoyed by a 20-percent jump in arrivals from Japan.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota totaled 49,198 in April 2018, compared to 52,438 visitors received in April 2017.

Arrivals from Japan posted a third consecutive month of growth, bounding 20 percent higher than April 2017 at 4,631 visitors. An increase of 22 additional seats daily since November 2017 and continued strong marketing has contributed to the overall increase in arrivals, as well as an uptick in bookings during Golden Week beginning April 29. The Marianas is anticipating 30

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Expect "Roseanne" to cool it on politics and concentrate on family stories.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Luhk sisters' disappearance enters 7th year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa will hold a Mass of remembrance this Saturday for sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, who mysteriously disappeared from a school bus stop near their home in As Teo seven years ago.

As this developed, Federal Bureau of Investigation spokesperson Michele M. Ernst told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the FBI remains committed to working with the CNMI Department of Public Safety to search for the missing sisters.

"The FBI is urging anyone in the community who has any information to contact the FBI's Saipan Office at (670) 322-6934," Ernst said.

Ernst declined to provide any specific updates pertaining to the FBI's investigation.

According to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's announcement, the Mass will be held at 11am at St. Jude Church in Koblerville.

The Luhk sisters disappeared near a bus stop in As Teo on May 25, 2011.

» Diocese of Chalan Kanoa will hold Mass of remembrance this Saturday

The Diocese has invited everybody to continue praying for the two girls and stated, "resolution, enlightenment, and ultimately peace will be achieved through coming together in prayers."

The Mass is in anticipation of the seventh anniversary since the Luhk sisters disappeared on May 25, 2011.

Fr. James Balajadia will preside over the Mass. Guest homilist Monsignor James Benavente, who is the FBI chaplain for Guam and Saipan, will join.

"This Eucharistic celebration is also a source of healing and unity for those who have suffered a tragedy such as suicide of a loved one or any violence that has brought harm," the diocese said.

The diocese is inviting everyone to the Mass, regardless of religious affiliation, to gather as a community in worship and to light candles for the Luhk sisters. "May they never be forgotten," the diocese said.

Early last March, police searched a World War II septic tank in Kagman after receiving a tip from an anonymous person. Searchers could not find evidence from the tank.

A video released by the Department of Public Safety information office showed officers using a backhoe to destroy and open the tank, reportedly located in an abandoned lot.

Last Feb. 17, police officers backed by FBI agents searched a home in Koblerville in search for the remains of the missing Luhk sisters, but did not find any evidence.

Faloma and Maleina Luhk will be 16 and 17 years old now and DPS detectives said they will continue to work to try to find answers, close the case, and give the family the answers they need.

DOL sets eyes on new bureau for statistics, program resurrections

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The proposed Department of Labor budget for fiscal year 2019 already includes the creation of a new bureau solely for labor statistics as well as program resurrections.

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, the DOL has already taken into consideration within their $2.3-million budget proposal the set up of a new bureau and one program resurrection during their budget hearing yesterday on Capital Hill.

Benavente said the department could work with the $1.6 million proposal as offered by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a previous communication.

She said a large chunk of the $1.6 million would go to the new Bureau of Labor Statistics, along with resurrecting the Summer Youth Employment Program as well as funding for the Apprenticeship Program.

Benavente believes that with the new bureau coordinating with the Department of Finance, it could track the data of employers and employees in order to come up with statistical evidence when needed, especially for the CW program.

"We need justification. We can't just say we need this many [employees]. [The federal government] would ask why and what jobs," she said, adding that the local Labor department has "very little data."

According to her report, the bureau would consist of five additional employees for DOL.

The Summer Youth Employment Program lost funding after the federal program funding ended in 2016.

"DOL wanted to restore the [program], and I think that is something the members support," said House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

"[The program] helps expose our students to the workforce," he said, adding that the additional experience would give them an advantage over those who do not participate in the program.

"I believe that at a time where we are really talking about workforce development, this is something we should invest in," said Demapan.

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CIVICS CONTEST FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona hands over a certificate and cash prize yesterday afternoon to Maria Gregoire, who won third place in the essay category for the 2018 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest. Gregoire is a 9th grade student at the Saipan International School.

More sisterhood city accords with Japan eyed

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is looking at boosting Japanese tourism in the Commonwealth through the creation of sisterhood city agreements.

During the Katori Shrine group's annual visit to Saipan, it was discussed that a sisterhood agreement between Chiba's Katori City and Saipan should be established, according to Mayor David M. Apatang.

The Katori Shrine group was behind the construction of the Katori Shrine at the Sugar King Park over 30 years ago to honor the Japanese settlement and the history between Japan and Saipan. The group also brought Japan's famous Autumn Festival to the Commonwealth.

According to Apatang, he feels strongly about the sisterhood city agreements between Katori City and Saipan and is completely on board with the idea.

"It is always good to establish relationships like this with cities in Japan so we can try and get our Japanese market back on the island," he said.

Apatang said that Kator City will not be the only Japanese city and Chiba will not be the only prefecture that the Saipan municipality will establish sisterhood accords with.

"I think it is a good idea and we are also working on other sisterhood relationships with Japan," he said.

Apatang is currently in the process of establishing a sisterhood with a city in the Tokyo prefecture to further strengthen the bond between Japan and the Commonwealth.

He is also working on creating sister-relationships with China.

Aside from the sisterhood proposal, the Katori Shrine also announced that this year's Autumn Festival would be held on Oct. 27 at the Sugar King Park.

The group flew in early this week to inspect the Katori Shrine for any repairs that should be made before the festival and before the Katori Shrine ceremony. Apatang assured the group that he and his team have been maintaining the park to the best of their abilities.

According to Katori Shrine priest Shinto Katori, even if there are hindrances like the Delta Air Lines flight pullout, Katori Shrine devotees will not let it get in the way of the annual celebration.

The Autumn Festival is celebrated annually to highlight the traditional aspects of the Japanese culture and also the anniversary of the Katori Shrine at Sugar King Park.

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HISTORY

From Page 1

Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday, Thomas Smith, Hyatt senior vice president for Operations in the Asia Pacific, pointed out that Hyatt has been in operation for 38 years on Saipan.

"We have a rich history here on Saipan and, in the 38 years that this international brand of Hyatt has been here, we certainly hope to continue that for another 38 years or longer because this has really been a cornerstone for Hyatt for Asia Pacific.

"Our first hotel outside of the U.S. was in Hong Kong, established in 1969. Fast forward to Saipan, which is one of our first resorts, has proven that this really was a staple for us on Saipan," he added.

In August 2017, Senate Bill 20-35, introduced by Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), would set the initial lease of an establishment at 40 years, with an option to extend for an additional 15 years. It passed the Senate with a 9-0 vote; nine months later, the bill is still up for discussion for further action in the House of Representatives.

Smith said that, with Hyatt's history of 38 years on Saipan, "we would love to be in service for 38 more years because I know all of our [Hyatt] team members rely on that. A lot of our plans are really reliant on our future—the future of the lease legislation and there's a lot of plans that Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa and the team have walked me through," Smith said.

"From room renovations, which they are doing right now as we speak, to ballroom renovations to again just take the product and modernize it as much as possible in order to stay current with the new trends, from WiFi to all the developments that are within the industry. Right now, a lot of it depends on this lease legislation and we hope to get that push through so we can extend our lease for at least 15 more years," Smith added.

Aside from its continued presence and operations on Saipan, Smith said they also want more airline and flight business to come back to the CNMI.

"We have plans to meet with the airline executives in Japan in the future and this our goal organically as well from the hotel perspective to help grow the economy here… We definitely need more airlift as it would be ideal from Japan, also from Korea as well as China. It's no secret that the Chinese market is growing exponentially…and so we have plans to be able to serve and take care of them."

"Air travel from Guam is reducing this month. Now that one flight is going to happen, that may require a stay over for many, so the opportunity of packaging between Guam and Saipan stays has big potential… Saipan's counterpart, Hyatt Regency Guam, will work together and try to make a package that will help the traveler experience both islands," Smith added.

Hyatt Hotels Corp. continues to grow, with 700 hotels globally, and eyes more growth in the Asia Pacific region, Micronesia, Southeast Asia, China, and Australia in the next five years.

According to Hyatt Japan and Micronesia vice president Sam Sakamura, there are currently 11 Hyatt hotels in Japan that rely on the skills of Hyatt Regency Saipan employees.

"We are opening Okinawa, too, and we believe that Hyatt Regency Saipan is a great resource for providing training and this will give the local staff on Saipan more exposure to the other hotels. This way, we utilize the experience and expertise built on Saipan that will be applicable to the new hotels," he said.

"We are also opening in Hokkaido and expanding more of the resort experience in the Hyatt hotel chain and we would really like to utilize the experience here on Saipan even for winter resorts," he added.

Hyatt Regency Saipan's lease is set to expire in December 2021 and stakeholders such as the Hotel Association in the Northern Marianas Islands, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce have publicly showed support to extend public land leases.

In an earlier interview, Chamber president Velma Palacios said that they strongly support Senate Bill 20-35 and believes that it would generate renewed interest by current and future investors.

"Our goal is to continue to keep our presence here on Saipan for sure…Our hope is to continue operation here even if it's sold and operated under a new owner. However, we would love to operate under the current owner because they've been such good partners with Hyatt," Smith said.

"We love to see all the great people here and to be able to continue to work with them as a number of people in our leadership team has an average of 25 years of experience in Hyatt Saipan. All of those people will be impacted and potentially have to relocate… so our fingers are really crossed for good luck and wish for that [lease extension] to go through," Smith added.

JOSHUA

From Page 1

winners, this year they didn't know the names of schools, pursuant to the Ninth Circuit rules of the contest.

The winners will receive cash prizes and certificates.

The District Court conducted the preliminary judging for the contest.

The winning video and essay will go on to compete in the Ninth Circuit level contest.

There were 21 submissions for essays and four video entries.

Manglona and Kennedy said they made the selection last week, but they had to submit the winners to the Ninth Circuit last Tuesday.

The awarding ceremony was supposed to be last Tuesday afternoon, but none of the winners showed up at the District Court, possibly as the students were still in school.

Manglona said the top winners in the Ninth Circuit level will have their videos and the essays on the website of the competition.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI and the Ninth Circuit Courts and community committee sponsored the Ninth Circuit Civics contest.

This year's theme is "The 14th Amendment—150 Years after Ratification. What Does Equal Protection Mean to Students?"

Manglona said this year's contest is a little bit of a challenge.

"I believe the topic tends to be very contemporary," Manglona said, citing that it's the 150th anniversary of the passage of the 14th Amendment.

The judge said this is the Amendment that was passed after the American Civil War, in which there was a slavery issue.

"There's still some very relevant current issues. How does the 14th Amendment apply today?" Manglona said.

The contest asked high school students to consider how the equal protection clause applies in high schools, colleges, and graduate schools, whether in admissions, classrooms or on athletic fields.

Individual students were asked to express their thoughts and ideas in an essay. A student may submit both an essay of between 500 and 1,000 words. Individuals and teams of up to three students can produce a 3-5-minute video on the theme.

A student may submit only one essay and be involved in the production of only one video.

The essays or video should demonstrate an understanding of the historic background of the equal protection clause; explain the constitutional powers and rights relevant to the court cases and laws; and discuss the important role of the Judicial Branch in preserving the rights of Americans to equal education.

The contest was open to high school students in nine western states, the CNMI, and Guam.

Manglona said cash prizes will be awarded to District Circuit winners for both contests. She said first place will receive $2,000 cash, second place will get $1,000, and third place will be given $500.

In addition, travel and accommodations will be given to attend the 2018 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Anaheim, California.

Manglona and Kennedy encouraged more high school students to join next year's Ninth Circuit Civics competition.

BILL

From Page 1

to regulate the substance.

Sens. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Teresita Santos (R-Rota) abstained from voting.

During discussions on the bill, Santos said marijuana is known to affect brain development, which in turn affects behavioral patterns and ultimately, performance at home and school.

"When [it] gets into the hands of our teenagers, marijuana could alter their senses, [induce] mood changes, impair body movements, [result in] difficulty with thinking and problem solving, impaired memory, and even hallucinations," she said, adding that parents from Rota signed a petition opposing the bill for recreational purposes.

Santos clarified that she was only in support of the medicinal aspect of marijuana.

"As a result, to protect our children from the adverse effects and consequences and the fact that personal and recreational use is embedded in the legislation, I voted in abstention. Otherwise, if it [was] for medicinal purposes, I would have voted in the affirmative," Santos said.

In an interview, an excited Igisomar thanked those who participated in the public hearings for the bill, which resulted in a thick compilation. Igisomar also hoped that the House acts in favor of the bill.

"Based on previous feedback I got from the House, the only indication they gave me was [to make sure of the Senate's due diligence]," he said. "That is why we made sure that we had a report with all the details–who came in, who made comments, what research [are available], what documents were submitted in support of the concept."

Prior to the vote, there were little to no discussions on the bill. Both Quitugua and Manglona did not comment on the bill. *Saipan Tribune* sought for comments from the two why they abstained from voting on the bill but they had yet to respond as of press time.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) proposed a floor amendment to amend the cannabis commission representation of Tinian and Rota to two members each. Saipan has five members on the commission and the commission, according to Igisomar, is subject to the statutory requirement of having at least one woman representative and one Refaluwasch representative.

The amendment carried unanimously and the bill would be further amended for other technicalities.

S.B. 20-62 now heads to the House for action.

APRIL

From Page 1

summer charter flights and the commencement of new, double daily regular flights from Japan in the winter season.

"We are in the process of revising forecasts on Japan visitor arrivals over the next several months, even as we anticipate the commencement of new regular service in the winter season," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "While we will have to tighten our belts, we are optimistic about the rebound of the market, based on the last few months of incremental growth. In the meantime, we are looking forward to 30 charter flights over the summer. Obviously, there is still demand in Japan for the Marianas."

Arrivals from Korea dropped 20 percent to 21,928 visitors, yet the country retained its position as the top performing source market. This decline is largely due to the suspension of Incheon-Saipan service by Eastar Jet and Busan-Saipan service by Asiana Airlines since October 2017.

Jin Air has also temporarily suspended its Incheon-Saipan service until October 2018, but is considering possibilities to resume its flights in the winter season.

Now operating five weekly flights since April 6, T'way Air will resume its daily schedule from June 1 through October. It has also announced plans to operate charter flights with 189 seats from Sept. 21 to 29 during Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving holiday week. During the period, over 1,500 seats will be added.

Arrivals from China grew 11 percent compared to April 2017 to 19,448 visitors. Steady airlift from five cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, and Hong Kong) and strategic marketing are key factors that will continue to help maintain and boost arrivals from this large market.

As a result of recent roadshows in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, and Xi'an, The Marianas has received more attention as a preferred tourism destination. In addition, the temporary closure of Boracay in the Philippines is also expected to increase China tourism to the Marianas.

Economic highlights

The unemployment rate in South Korea hit a 17-year high in March, according to government data. The retail and service sectors experienced significant losses of jobs, raising concerns about the possible side effects of a minimum wage increase this year. The average USD/won exchange rate in April was 1,066.27 won, a slight decrease from the previous rate of 1,070.38 won in March.

Chinese SNS travel website Mafengwo shows that the Southeast Asian islands will continue to be popular in the off-season. The top 10 island destinations are Phuket, Bali, Nha Trang, Koh Sumui, Semporna, Saipan, Sabah, Pattaya, Krabi and Maldives.

Economic growth in Japan likely lost some momentum in the first quarter as higher inflation and low wage increase weighed on consumer spending. Industrial production also lost some steam in the period, while business confidence among large manufacturers moderated for the first time in over two years. That said, the shock is expected to be temporary, and the economy should continue posting solid growth rates throughout the rest of the year. Monthly average rate for U.S. dollar to Japanese yen exchange in April 2018 was 107.50, compared to 106.03 in March 2018. ***(PR)***

PSS expects to be in the red if…

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System expects a budget shortfall before the school year ends if it doesn't get the additional $3.7 million that was promised it and has yet to be collected from the Casino Gross Revenue Tax.

PSS received $36.5 million in the fiscal year 2018 budget. This is aside from a combined $12.35 million in additional money allocated to it with the CNMI State Board of Education. The money was part of the $24 million appropriated under Public Law 20-42 from the CGRT.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who is also the House Ways and Means Committee chairman, introduced P.L. 20-42, formerly House Bill 20-147 HS1 HD1, and it was signed into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres early this year.

Out of the $12.35 million from the CGRT, PSS got $11.85 million while the CNMI State Board of Education was allocated $150,000.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS requested an additional $15 million from the Legislature, but was only given $12.35 million, together with the BOE. They were promised an additional $3.7 million, which is expected to come from the second wave of CGRT funds.

The expected budget shortfall is based on the report presented by PSS Finance and Budget director Christopher Ching in yesterday's BOE board meeting at the BOE conference room on Capital Hill.

Interim education commissioner Glenn P. Muña told *Saipan Tribune* that the figures they presented were the actual cash that they have in the bank. Around 81 percent of the money was spent on personnel cost.

"When we presented, I want to show the actual cash. Right now, if we don't get the additional $3 million, then we are projecting a shortfall. So, we're looking at ways to cut just in case we need to cut," said Muña. "What we did is we went aggressive in the Central Office. In terms of operational budget, we cut big time. And for the schools, we haven't cut anything yet. We want to make sure we get all the resources to the schools because that is where a lot of business happens."

One way that they are doing in saving cost is on the utilities. Muña asked all school principals to turn off air-conditioning units if their students are outside during break time or are on their way home.

"That's where we realized a significant amount in savings. All that savings will continue to add on to reduce the projected shortfall," Muña said.

He said that there's no word yet when are they going to receive the money. "[But] what we did is submit a joint letter, BOE chair [MaryLou S. Ada] and me, addressed to the… House and Senate."

Demapan, being the Ways and Means committee chairman, heads the House panel while Senate Fiscal Affairs committee chair Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) leads the Senate side.

Personnel costs

Muña said adjusting the salaries of several personnel was why a huge chunk of their budget was spent to personnel costs. "It's different this time because of the compensation plan the board approved, effective on Oct. 1 [2017]."

"When we were preparing the budget for [FY 2018], we did budget [a certain amount for personnel]. But of course, there are a lot of teachers that have also met their certification requirements and a lot have also furthered their education."

Preparations for the fiscal year 2018 budget began as early as February last year. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the 2018 budget in September last year.

Muna added that they factored in the need to bump up the salaries of at least 25 of their personnel. "The biggest portion of our budget, for many years, is for personnel and the remaining funds goes to operations."

"The board is not saying that we need to make cuts but what they want us to do is to review and see what we can come up with. Whether to revisit the distribution [of money] or, if needed, re-assign people to other schools to cover. We're looking at what we can do and we're not going to cut personnel."

Muña said the $3 million promised them is still pending. "That's what we're waiting for. We will be able to end on the positive side if we get that money."

BOE vice chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio said that PSS would have a budget deficit if they won't get the $3 million. "PSS will incur a deficit if the government would not proceed with the second supplemental budget. It is essential that we continue our collaboration and partnership with government and Legislature."

$12M was acceptable

Demapan, in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, said there was an assurance that the $12.35 million appropriated was a figure that was acceptable, while the government collects further anticipated supplemental budget revenues from the CGRT.

"That was the basis for the Legislature agreeing to appropriate 50 percent of the supplemental revenues in P.L. 20-42 to PSS. We are aware that there are still revenues collected from the CGRT that are currently being reviewed and audited before Gov. Torres can identify the revenues available for appropriation."

Demapan added that it has only been a little over two months since H.B. 20-147 became P.L. 20-42 that appropriated the $12.35 million. "This is $12 million in addition to the FY 2018 budget appropriation of $36.5 million, totaling $48.5 million."

"It's hard to imagine that with still five months remaining in the fiscal year, [PSS] is already projecting to be in the red."

He said that they are trying to address areas of concern in the CNMI. "This is where we are at in the process. We are also mindful that there are other critical obligations of the government. Areas such as healthcare, law enforcement, land compensation, and judgments against the government."

"As such, I will be requesting from PSS an updated breakdown relative to their request for an additional $3 million so that the committee will have the information needed for consideration in future revenues that become available for appropriation."

Man allegedly breaks into house, throws machete at cop

A 22-year-old man allegedly burglarized a house in Chinatown Thursday midnight, threw a machete at a police officer, and threatened to kill the officer.

The suspect, Kition Emor, allegedly tried to run away, but police officers arrested him.

Emor was taken to Superior Court last Friday on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, resisting arrest, assault, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Tuesday continued the preliminary hearing to May 22 at 1:30pm after Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig moved for an appointment of a Chuukese court interpreter for Emor.

Camacho granted the motion. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Voter registration drive at Fiesta on Friday

The Commonwealth Election Commission will conduct a voter registration drive at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Azucena Room this Friday, May 25, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

There will also be a voter registration drive at the Tinian Junior/Senior High School today and tomorrow, May 17-18, from 9am to 4pm.

Those who would like to register must bring a copy of their birth certificate certified by the court, a current valid U.S. passport, or naturalization documents to show proof of one's citizenship.

A person is eligible to vote who, on Nov. 6, 2018, is 18 years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, has resided in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the day of the election, is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction, has not been declared by a court to be judicially insane, and is either a citizen or national of the United States as defined in the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution.

Previously registered voters who have failed to vote in the 2014 and 2016 general election must re-register to be eligible to vote in the 2018 regular general election.

Anyone requiring voter registration information may call the Commission's office at (670) 664-VOTE (8683) or email at administrative@votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

PIC hosts voter registration

Pacific Islands Club Saipan hosted its first voter registration drive yesterday to encourage PIC employees to register to vote for this year's election in November.

Employees were also encouraged to bring in their friends and family members who have not been registered, to take advantage of this opportunity.

Three staff members from the Commonwealth Election Commission assisted the employees with completing their application for a Voter's I.D.

PIC has a total of 41 unregistered voters who are employed with the hotel. A total of 28 employees were able to register for this year's upcoming election.

For those employees who weren't able to register, PIC will assist them by either taking the employees to the Commonwealth Election Commission office or to one of the hotels who will be conducting the next voter registration drive.

The election register clerk, Jenna Dyn Borja, said that they will be conducting more voter registration drives with the other HANMI member hotels. ***(PR)***

J'S fried chicken eating competition on May 19 at 'Taste'

The 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden returns this Saturday with the J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition, pitting local contenders against Japan's famous female food fighter, Sachiyo Masubuchi.

Masubuchi will take on all local challengers in the J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition Saturday on the main stage at 7pm to see who will finish 30 pieces of chicken fastest in 20 minutes. The winner walks away—if they can still walk—with $1,000 cash.

In a sneak peek of Saturday's main event, Masubuchi will visit J's Restaurant this Friday, May 18, at 7:30pm and receive a formal introduction to the community and fellow contenders by the Marianas Visitors Authority. Masubuchi holds numerous records in Japan and is well-known in Japan as a TV personality, model, actress and a beauty contestant.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spencer Marchadesh, center, and Joel Camacho, won first place in the Joeten Barbecue Ribs Cook-off at the 20th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 12, 2018, at American Memorial Park. From left are judges Shayne Villanueva, Jackie Nicolas, Laxmi Shrestha; Camacho, Marchadesch and children, judge Emi Okazaki, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, and judge chef Samson Tan.

The festival raked in its largest token sales ever in the 20-year history of the festival on May 12.

» Record-breaking sales on May 12

"'Taste' just keeps getting better!" said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Last week's release of tax returns was also a huge boost, and people are in a good place and want to come out enjoy themselves at the festival with friends and family. We've also created a number of new and exciting competitions this year to draw the crowd and have ramped up promotions. It's Tourism Month, and this is a great example of how a healthy tourism economy lends itself to a vibrant community. We invite everyone to join us this Saturday for our most exciting food competition, the J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition featuring Sachiyo Masubuchi."

Saturday's "Taste" will also offer the opportunity for the audience to make *titiyas* and *apigigi* from 7pm to 9pm with home cook Sandra Babauta.

Last Saturday, May 12, the "Go Well with Joel" team of Joel Camacho and Spencer Marchadesch served up the tastiest ribs to win first place prize of a $300 Joeten gift certificate and IT&E cellphone. Second place and a $200 Joeten gift certificate and IT&E cellphone went to Patrick Cepeda of Mama's Love, and third place and an IT&E cellphone went to the Sugar and Spice team of Angelo Camacho and Joey Tudela. Also competing were Smokers Anonymous (Gerald Boyer and J.D. Tenorio) and Uncle and Nephew (Roy Tudela and Joe Duenas). Judges were Chef Samson Tan, CNMI Next Top Chef Laxmi Shrestha, Emi Okazaki, Jackie Nicolas, and Shayne Villanueva.

Participating food vendors are Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Furusato Restaurant, Kinpachi Restaurant, Matty's BBQ, D'Elegance Restaurant, The Hut, Herman's Modern Bakery, Thai House, Terry's Snack Bar, Sierra Pearl Shake, and Tropical Chills. Participating drink vendors are MARPAC, Pacific Trading Co, and Saipan Brewing Co. ***(MVA)***

NOTICE OF INTENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The U.S. Air Force invites you to attend the Public Scoping Meeting for the proposed Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The U.S. Air Force (Air Force) will host an open house public scoping meeting to discuss the proposal to construct a fuel pipeline from the Tinian seaport to Tinian International Airport, to include a booster pump house, a boom storage building, and associated infrastructure at the Tinian seaport. The Air Force also proposes to improve certain existing roads between the Tinian seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert-related projects.

In September 2016, the Air Force completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Divert Activities and Exercises and the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed December 7, 2016, which announced the Air Force decision to select the Modified Tinian Alternative (Final EIS, Section 2.7, page 2-52) and specifically the North Option (Final EIS, Section 2.5.2, page 2- 28), as a future Divert location. After the ROD was signed in December 2016, the Air Force conducted further evaluation of the fuel requirement and associated infrastructure, including the feasibility of different alternatives that were not considered in the original EIS. The Air Force now proposes to construct a fuel pipeline to transport fuel from the seaport to the airport, and associated infrastructure at the seaport, rather than using fuel trucks for fuel transfer. In addition, recent reconnaissance surveys of the routes proposed for Divert-related vehicles, and coordination with Tinian leadership, indicate the existing surface road network is inadequate to support heavy vehicle traffic required for Divert activities, and is in need of improvements. Therefore, the Air Force also proposes to improve certain existing roads between the Tinian seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert-related projects.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SEIS). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Air Force will prepare an SEIS, which will assess the potential environmental consequences of the proposed infrastructure improvements on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING. The public is encouraged to attend an "open house" scoping meeting to learn more about the proposal and assist the Air Force in scoping issues to evaluate in the SEIS. The meeting will be arranged in a "come and go" format with no formal Air Force presentation or opportunity for public testimony. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting; your input is valuable and assists the Air Force in making more informed decisions. Please drop in anytime between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on May 17, 2018 (ChST) at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria. A Chamorro/Carolinian interpreter will be available at the scoping meeting to assist with translation of meeting materials and written comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT. The Air Force welcomes comments, suggestions, and relevant information on the proposal. Please submit comments in English at the public scoping meeting, by visiting www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com, or contacting Ms. Melissa Markel! at the address below. Address comments to:

Ms. Melissa Markel!, AFCEC/CZN
Attn: Tinian Divert SEIS
2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

The Air Force also welcomes comments under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800) regarding the identification of or effects on historic properties. If you have comments or would like to become a consulting party in the Section 106 process, please visit the project website or contact Ms. Melissa Markel!, AFCEC/CZN at the address above.

To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the Draft SEIS and the Section 106 process, please submit comments by May 31, 2018.

www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com

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COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board Financial Affairs Committee will be holding a Special meeting on Monday, May 21, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

AGENDA

1. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
3. **ITEMS:**
   a. Financial Advisory Services Proposal
   b. Risk Consultant Proposal
   c. Air Carrier Incentive Program
   d. FY 2018 Projected Revenues
   e. CUC/CPA Settlement Agreement
   f. Financial Reports
   g. Board Resolutions
      i. Credit Card Machine
      ii. Loan
   h. Wharfage Rates
4. **MISCELLANEOUS**
5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit will be imposed for oral testimony.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DLNR-088 (A-C)

SUBMISSION/OPENINGDATE: JUNE 18, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE & INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS (A), GENERATOR HOUSING CONSTRUCTION (B), & UNIT FOR THE KAGMAN WATER WELL PROJECT, SAIPAN (C) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED A THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **A MANDATORY SITE VISIT IS SCHEDULED ON JUNE 06, 2018 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE SUBSTATION IN KAGMAN.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHITIIBING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
RFP NO.: RFP18-DPW-090 (A-B)

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 18, 2018 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (A) AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION (B)

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED A THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLES 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D)

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHITIIBING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Two in FSM get APIC scholarships to study in Tokyo

TOKYO—Two graduating seniors from Xavier High School in the Federated States of Micronesia have been awarded the coveted APIC scholarship that covers all expenses related to full-time degree studies at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan.

Chloe RoseAnn Arnold of Chuuk State and Paul Charley Jr. of Kosrae State, both in the Federated States of Micronesia, will begin studying for undergraduate degrees at Sophia University this fall.

Arnold

Charley

They will join five other undergraduate and two graduate students, all graduates of Xavier High School, who are studying at Sophia University as earlier recipients of the APIC scholarship program.

Arnold, who was part of a group of international student researchers that studied climate change in the Arctic last year, is class valedictorian. She has been on the honor roll for every semester she's been at Xavier High School.

Charley has been active in school and community activities from his freshman year. He's also played leading roles in class and student body government activities.

"We are pleased to award this year's APIC scholarships to Chloe Arnold and Paul Charley Jr. This scholarship program is one of the most successful in the Micronesia region. It recognizes the academic achievement and leadership potential of the recipients, as well as the special role Xavier High School and Sophia University play in promoting learning and educational growth in their respective countries," said Ambassador Peter Y. Sato, president of The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation.

The full-ride scholarship is sponsored by APIC, a private foundation in Tokyo dedicated to strengthening Japan's relations with the nations of the Pacific Islands and Caribbean. The APIC scholarship, which is awarded to two Xavier High School graduates each year to study at Sophia University, was organized by Sato and Ambassador Shoji Sato, APIC's executive director.

Both men are retired career Japanese diplomats. Sato's last post was as Japan's ambassador to China. Sato served as ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happiest 13th birthday, Jylon Joseph! Wishing you lots of love and happiness. May the good Lord continue to bless you, always! We love you! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A special birthday shoutout goes out to our big boy, Damon Gregory. May the good Lord continue to bless you all the years to come. We love you very much, son!

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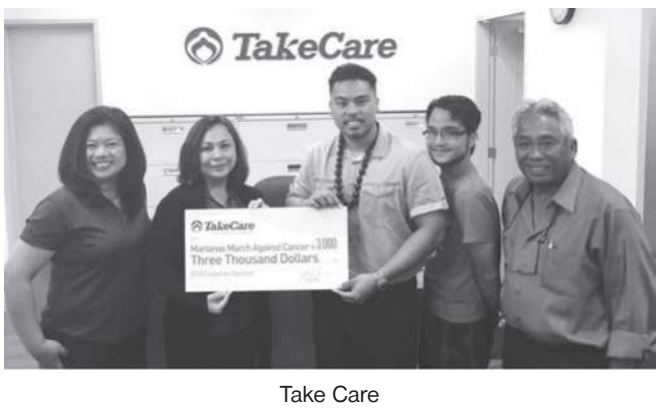

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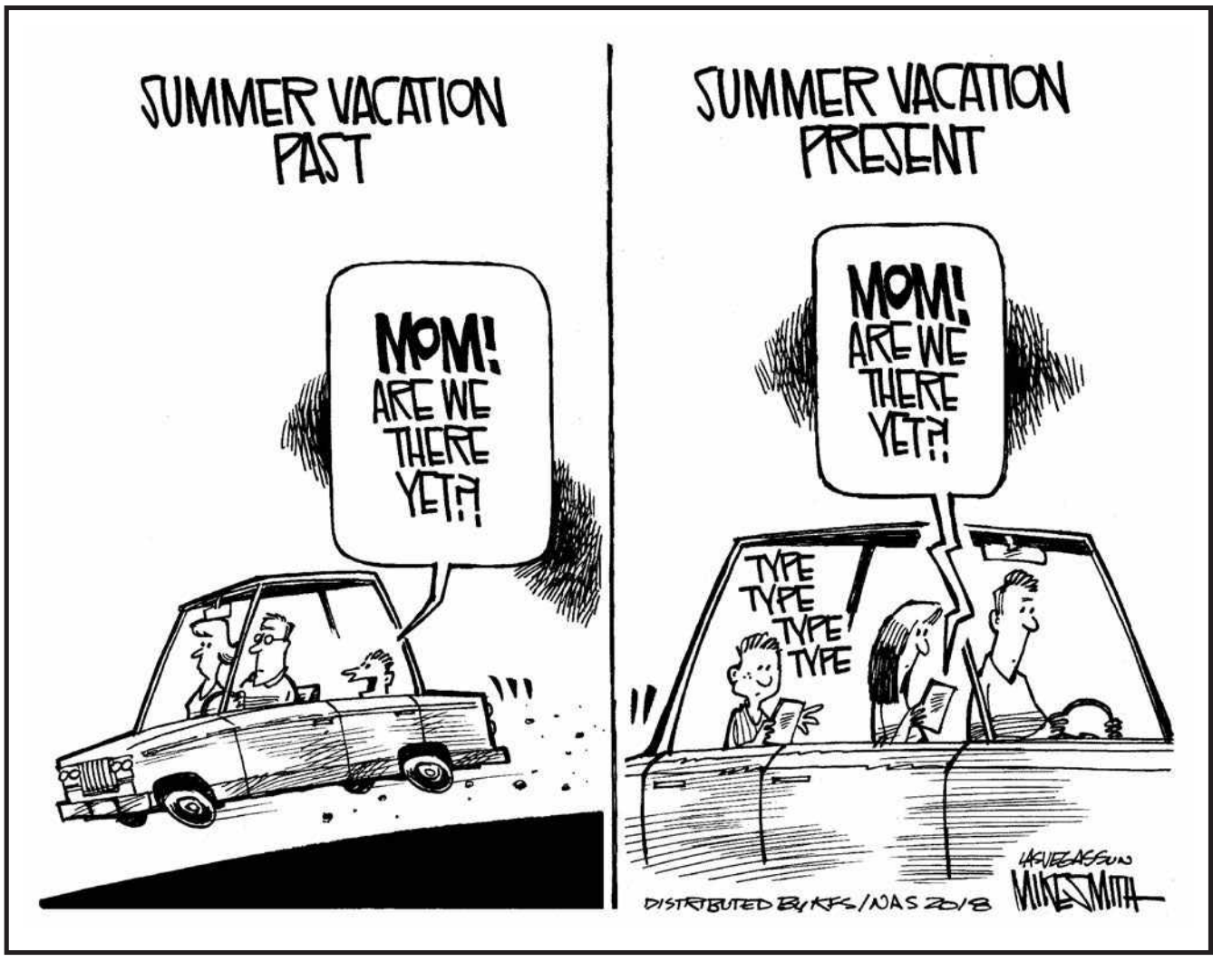

Yes, I miss George W. Bush

By S.E. CUPP
TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY

In February 2010, just about a full year after Barack Obama took office, a series of billboards mysteriously popped up along Interstate 35 in a town called Wyoming, Minn.

They showed a photo of a waving President George W. Bush, flashing a cheeky grin, above copy that said, "Miss me yet?"

The meme quickly caught on and soon plastered car rear bumpers, T-shirts and posters.

But despite the viral spread of "Miss me yet?" merchandise, it turned out that the answer was decidedly: No. America, by and large, did not miss President Bush yet.

He left office with a 33 percent favorability rate, according to Gallup. By the time the billboards were up in 2010, it had only recovered to the mid-40s.

But in the years since, Bush has nearly doubled his popularity. A CNN poll from January 2018 has his approval at 61 percent. In just the two years since Trump became the Republican nominee for president, that number has climbed six points.

A new report by Roxanne Roberts in the Washington Post explores some of the reasons for the newfound admiration, including the simple benefit of time, a reconciling of the complexities of the Iraq War, and the fact that Bush has remained fairly quiet in the years since leaving the White House.

"Time has done the reputation of President Bush a lot of good," says Fred Kempe, president of the Atlantic Council, which recently awarded Bush the Distinguished International Leadership Award. "(T)he longer time goes on and his presidency is reassessed, the better he looks."

Of course, it could be argued that the "Miss me yet?" meme could be revived in the wake of Trump, as more and more Democrats are discovering their untapped affection for their former enemy. According to a January 2018 CNN report, "most of Bush's climb back to popularity came from Democrats and Independents." Among Democrats, his favorability in February of 2009 was a mere 11 percent. It is now at 54 percent.

I know I'll be called an establishment cuck for this, but after almost a year and a half of Trump's antics—his tweets, his bullying, his lies, his lack of intellectual curiosity, his brittle inability to withstand scrutiny, his angry, uninformed blurting, his hostility toward valued Democratic institutions—it's hard not to miss Bush.

You can hold Bush accountable for his policy decisions—and criticize his decision to invade Iraq—while acknowledging that Americans didn't know just how good they had it at the time when many decided Bush was evil incarnate.

And now, the differences stand in stark relief.

There are the little things. Bush could laugh at himself. His self-deprecating sense of humor was famously disarming. He wasn't too proud to take a joke, nor was he punitive about jokes at his expense.

And while he could be pointed, he was never mean. A universe away from berating a war hero or mocking a disabled journalist, the meanest Bush ever got was in his

See YES on Next Page

NMI people have a right to protect their culture

Editor's Note: The following is the text of Hartig's winning speech at the Attorney General Cup speech competition, held May 4. This year, the competition focused on the insular cases doctrine, in which Congress can choose which portions of the U.S. Constitution applies to "unincorporated territories," including the CNMI.

By SHEA KENNEDY HARTIG
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Shea Kennedy Hartig, a sophomore at Saipan International School, is this year's winner of the Attorney General Cup speech competition.

In 1984, John arrived in Dapong, Togo, where he would work for the U.S. Peace Corps to help supply the local people of the small African nation with oxen to help plow their fields. These animals were not found in Africa, but the Peace Corps believed that, with the use of these oxen, indigenous people would no longer have to turn the earth on their farms by hand. After delivering an ox to each village, John retraced his steps to check on the progress of the locals. He found that the indigenous people had eaten the oxen, and continued to plow the fields by hand.

Without understanding or considering the local culture, any new system is destined to fail. A government that is supposed to be of the people by the people and for the people must respect the ways of the people.

From the Constitutional Convention of 1787 until the passage of the most recent 27th amendment of 1992 and at all amendments in between, not a single Chamorro or Refaluwasch citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands cast a vote. So why should they now be subject to it?

The U.S. Constitution was written by former English colonists. It took into account hundreds of years of English culture, history and the suppression by the English monarchy. It was written with full knowledge and understanding of British traditions and values in an effort by former colonists to form their own country. To be free of the English monarchy, with its own common law and culture merely based on British tradition. To apply the U.S. Constitution to an unincorporated territory such as the CNMI would fail to acknowledge the history and culture of the Northern Mariana Islands and force an arguably foreign set of laws on the local people based on an English legal system. The indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands have no traditions, culture or history based in England. They have a unique history and culture. The legal system must take this history and resultant values into account in formulating laws and a local legal system. The insular cases give the people of these islands the flexibility to take local history and culture into account while guaranteeing basic rights of all Americans.

Jury trial for some legal disputes, like land claims, date back to 12th century England. In 1215 the Magna Carta guaranteed the right to a jury trial to all free Englishmen in criminal cases. There is no such 800-year history of jury trials in the Northern Marianas. There is no reason to force the system on people without such a longstanding history and culture of these legal practices. Even so, the right to a jury trial exists here. The Northern Mariana Islands Legislature has seen fit to grant jury trials in criminal cases with a punishment of five years or more.

The insular case doctrine allows the local government to have control over local legal issues in some areas, without the need to comply fully with U.S. Constitution requirements as long as the process is fundamentally fair. For example, Article 12 of the Covenant to Establish the CNMI in Political Union with the United States allows for land alienation in the Commonwealth. Land can be bought and sold only by those of Northern Marianas descent. This would seem at odds with the notion of free land alienation found in the 50 states. It may also seem like a colonial leftover put in place to protect locals from outside land speculators and can seem somewhat disrespectful of the local people's ability to manage their own affairs. But it is actually the exact opposite. It's a provision by the locals and for the locals who saw the need to protect and preserve their land. Because they see a need to secure their homeland. Without a homeland, much is lost. Culture and language can be lost. Where are the Pequote Indians of Connecticut who can speak the language? Where are the Pawnee of Illinois? Who practices their traditions today? Who preserves these cultures and practices?

Some people might be tempted to look to Cherokee reservations in Oklahoma as an example of an indigenous people who operate largely as an independent nation within the United States. But those people forget that the Cherokees are originally from North Carolina. They went to Oklahoma unwillingly, when they were forced to travel there on foot during the brutal winter of 1838. Thousands died of exposure and starvation in what became known as the Trail of Tears. Much of the culture was lost. Few

See NMI on Next Page

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Marine reserves protect our people

By AMBER ROBERTS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Amber Roberts focused her studies at Stanford University on the decision-making processes behind natural resource management and hopes to make them more equitable and sustainable for future generations. She is currently undertaking a research and writing project with the Friends of the Mariana Trench to communicate the findings of prominent scientific studies to island communities in Micronesia.

As island people, our culture, heritage, and livelihood depend on the ocean. The ocean feeds us, sustains our climate, and is an integral part of our economy. However, the ocean is experiencing unprecedented change. We are observing fish populations in decline from overfishing, and across the world, corals are dying as seawater becomes too acidic. Given the fast pace of change in our oceans, one way to safeguard marine life and our fishing economy is to create marine reserves.

Marine reserves are defined as "areas of the ocean completely protected from all extractive and destructive activities." Naturally, creating areas where we are not allowed to fish can be controversial because it is seen as impeding our ability to provide for our families. But our people have centuries of experience with this type of ocean management. In Palau, where my mother's family is from, the chiefs would declare a "bul" to allow the ocean to recover when we took too many resources. Other traditional systems in the Pacific, such as "kapu" in Hawaii, "mo" in the Marshall Islands, and "rāhui" in New Zealand, act in a similar vein: they place restrictions to balance what we need and what the ocean can provide. Marine reserves have gained popularity over the past few decades as an effective form of fisheries management because the strict no-take regulations allow fish and other important species to reproduce and sustain healthy populations. The United Nations has set a global goal of protecting 10 percent of the ocean with marine reserves, whereas the International Union for Conservation of Nature recommends creating a fully sustainable ocean will require protection of at least 30 percent.

Some have argued that closing off large areas of the ocean doesn't make a significant difference—that we should focus on managing the whole ocean sustainably and that doing so would have the same effect in keeping commercially important populations healthy. That idea isn't necessarily backed by science—or our culture.

To better understand the effects of no-take marine reserves versus other areas that allow fishing, a team of scientists reviewed 149 studies that measured four indicators of ecosystem health inside and outside of reserves. The scientists examined the total mass of organisms in an area, how many species were found, the sizes of each species, and the number of each different species inside and outside of marine reserves. They found that all four indicators were significantly higher in the no-take marine reserves indicating a healthier environment within the reserve. Their most surprising finding was that fish and other marine life were bigger inside the reserve and that there were many more species inside reserves than areas without protection. You can learn more about this study by googling "Biological Effects Within No-Take Marine Reserves: A Global Synthesis."

While this might sound like a very technical study, its results and implications are easy to interpret. When fish are protected inside a reserve, it gives them the opportunity to grow and multiply. These growing fish populations can then swim out of the reserve and spill over to other areas where they can be fished. Marine reserves also create space for species to breed, allowing for more larva to be transported outside the bounds of the marine reserve and replenishing fish stocks many miles away.

The positive effects of marine reserves don't happen instantaneously. It takes a few years for fish populations to replenish themselves in their new safe havens. However, the data is irrefutable: creating no-take marine reserves leads to healthier, more sustainable fisheries, and in return, stronger, healthier people and island communities.

Amber Roberts is a born-and-raised island girl from Saipan. She recently graduated from Stanford University, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Earth Systems.

YES

From Page 10

penchant for awarding nicknames to everyone in his orbit, from "Hurricane Karen" for adviser Karen Hughes, to "Pootie Poot" for Vladimir Putin.

As Sen. Roy Blunt says of his friend, then as much as now, he is "a person who doesn't have to be critical of everybody else, a person who understands how big these problems are, a person who just has a sense of the right way to conduct yourself as a former president."

While W. could range from inartful to inarticulate at times—his gaffes are infamous—Trump makes a daily virtue of his own ignorance and insists anyone who points out his willful ignorance is "establishment." When it's clear Trump is wrong, rather than admit or correct it, he simply calls the correction fake news. That habit has trickled down to his communications shop and surrogates, and it's an embarrassing display.

Perhaps more importantly, Bush was "America Best," not "America First." He was hugely patriotic and optimistic about America's role in the world, but not in service of denigrating other cultures or parts of the world. His tremendous commitment to the international AIDS crisis was, for him, an opportunity to help developing nations while elevating America's leadership.

Upon receiving an award last week, he said "I'd really like to dedicate it to the generosity of the American people and ask you to spread the word about what this great compassionate nation has done."

I was long a Bush supporter, but 2007 me could hardly imagine a world in which he would be honored by a bipartisan think tank and receive three standing ovations.

But in 2018, with Trump as a backdrop, it's no wonder we are increasingly open to reimagining Bush's historic "awfulness," and remembering how he wasn't so bad, after all.

S.E. Cupp is the host of "S.E. Cupp Unfiltered" on HLN.

NMI

From Page 10

people speak the language after these people were forced to give up their land and highly sophisticated governmental structure.

When there is no homeland there are no traditions. There is no culture. Where there is no culture, the people are no longer a cohesive society.

There is a huge difference between an incorporated and an unincorporated territory. The U.S. Constitution does not and should not apply in its entirety to unincorporated territories. And there is a very good reason for this. An incorporated territory is a territory that is destined to become a state, such as Alaska and Hawaii in the 1950s. An unincorporated territory has no such expectations of becoming a state. Given that the United States has no intentions of welcoming the people of an unincorporated territory in the United States on equal terms, it wouldn't be fair to expect those people to comply completely with the U.S. Constitution. The federal government treats unincorporated territories and incorporated territories very differently. Therefore the expectations should be different as well. Because fundamental rights and basic fairness through due process do apply in unincorporated territories, there is no need or reasonable expectation that all aspects of the Constitution should be forced on the indigenous people.

For over a hundred years, the insular cases have created a standard under which certain constitutional requirements are applied to the people of U.S. territories, while others are not. Critics of the doctrine view it as the last remnant of colonialism, seeing it as an unequal representation of the territories based on race, or a tool of imperial constitutionalism. In reality, these cases are an opportunity to set a precedent and create a framework that will prioritize and protect indigenous traditions, values and culture from the imposition of federalism and foreign values.

The United States and therefore its citizens benefit from the inapplicability of certain constitutional provisions as long as fundamental rights are recognized and enforced.

For example, without the ability to restrict who can own and sell land in the Commonwealth, the indigenous people of the CNMI would have never agreed to the Covenant. Article 12 of the document is an integral and essential part of the Covenant and without it the people of the Commonwealth would never have ratified the agreement. By allowing such a provision, the United States is in a better position to form political alliances and acquire necessary military outposts while simultaneously respecting the culture and values of the indigenous people of the territory.

It has been argued that the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution requires that all people have equal access to land alienation. But Article 12 of the Covenant says otherwise. As the federal court explained in *Wabol v. Villacrusis*, to construe the Covenant is to be in violation of the United States Constitution, and to not allow the people of the CNMI their right to preserve and protect their culture and property would be in violation of their civil rights and would prevent the United States from forming binding international agreements. The bill of rights was not intended to interfere with the performance of America's international obligations. Its purpose is to protect minority rights, not to create a homogeneous society. When land is a scarce and precious resource that is vulnerable to economic plunder, it must be understood that the indigenous vision may not completely match the predominant attitude about property, and that's okay.

The insular cases wisely recognize that culture and tradition must be considered in establishing a working legal framework. So, if the United States is truly a government of the people by the people, for the people, that shall not perish from this earth as President Lincoln resolved in 1863, then it must be able to recognize the culture, traditions and wishes of the people who fly its flag. To this day, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands have the right to protect their culture as they see fit. And in case you were wondering, to this day, there are no plow oxen in Dapong, Togo.

RUDY'S RESET
BY JOE "ALL THE PRESIDENT'S LAWYERS" FOURNIER
BRAND-SPANKIN' NEW TRUMP LAWYER RUDY GIULIANI EXPLAINS
GIMME A BREAK! I JUST STARTED YESTERDAY! WHAT I MEANT TO SAY WAS, BY PAYING STORMY DANIELS $130,000...
...MICHAEL COHEN WAS RESOLVING A PERSONAL AND FALSE ALLEGATION TO PROTECT THE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY. COHEN WAS THEN COMPENSATED $470,000 BY DONALD TRUMP.
...DONALD'S UNINVITED WHOOPSIE DAISIES ON ELEVATORS.
THE REMAINING $340,000 WAS SET ASIDE FOR "INCIDENTAL EXPENSES", WHICH, I BELIEVE CONSIST MOSTLY OF...
joe@joefournierstudios.com

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲86° ▼77°

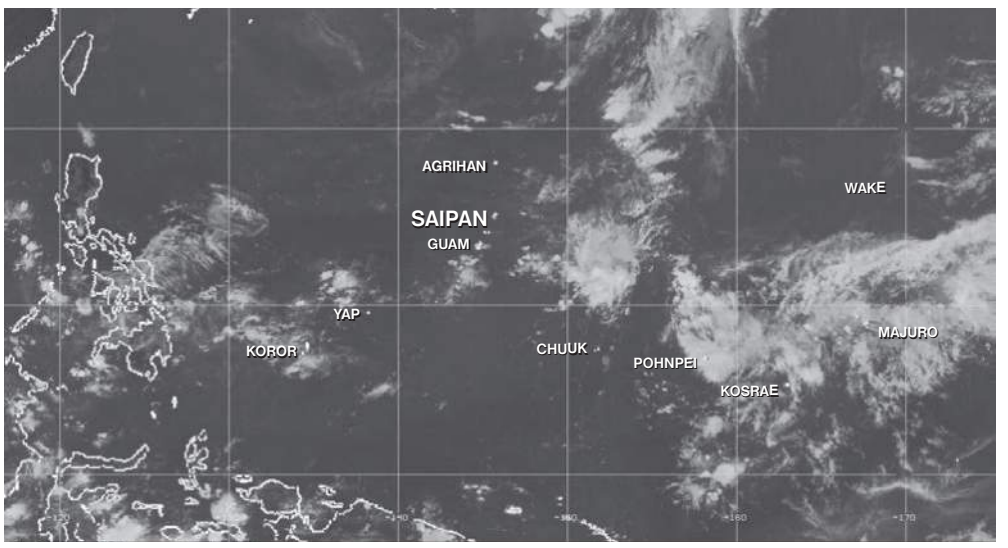
FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼78°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:32 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Changes in winds and waves will be minimal over the next week. All the uncertainty lies with clouds and rainfall. Showers have been increasing... a little. Since widely scattered is not allowed in the forecast anymore, stuck with isolated for today. Model guidance is still showing increased rainfall, so left the scattered showers in. However, espcially in the GFS20, the rain is starting to look more like `bullseye` events, so it could be just convective feedback. Will need to keep an eye on this, for now left the potentially worse weather in. Better to be able to change it for an improvement than to have to change it to make it worse.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°
Beijing	Showers	84° / 61°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 74°
London	Mostly Sunny	61° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	70° / 56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorm	80° / 75°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	78° / 59°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 45°
Busan	Rain	66° / 57°
Rome	Thunderstorm	73° / 55°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°
Washington, DC	Rain	69° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:58 AM	LOW TIDE	0.98
8:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.01
3:15 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.52
10:09 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.06

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:15 AM	8:28 PM	-
Friday	8:13 AM	9:31 PM	-
Saturday	9:14 AM	10:31 PM	-
Sunday	10:16 AM	11:27 PM	-
Monday	11:17 AM	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman schools' PTSA meeting today

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting today, May 17, 2018, starting at 5:30pm in the ChaCha Oceanview Middle School cafeteria. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 for more information. ***(PR)***

CNMI meeting of non-government groups

The Marianas Alliance for Non-Governmental Organizations is calling on all non-government organization leaders to come to a meeting with the Pacific Islands Association for Non-Governmental Organizations on May 18, 2018, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm, at the WestCare Pacific CNMI office, Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, Saipan. PIANGO gives a voice in policy formulation and contributes to the development and strengthening the capacity of the civil society sector in the Pacific for more than 27 years. The PIANGO network represents National Liaison Units that serve as national CSO platforms in 27 member countries and territories. By focusing on the theme "Rethinking Development and Reshaping the Pacific We Want By 2030," PIANGO is currently working on the following priority areas: strengthening CSO platforms in the Pacific, development effectiveness, evidence-based policy advocacy and Pacific development leadership and decolonization and self determination. To learn more about PIANGO and its members, visit www.piango.org or contact Frances Sablan at 287-9274 or frances.sablan@westcare.com, or Akmal Ali at 286-3391 or akmal@piango.org. ***(PR)***

NMC graduation will stream live

Family and friends who are off-island or who are not able to attend the Northern Marianas College's 38th Commencement Exercise on Saturday, May 19, 2018, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium in person can watch the event live online on NMC's Facebook page. The ceremony will be streamed live at https://www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa. The live stream will begin at approximately 4pm (Chamorro Standard Time) on Saturday, May 19, and will end at about 6:30pm. ***(PR)***

OVR closed half-day today

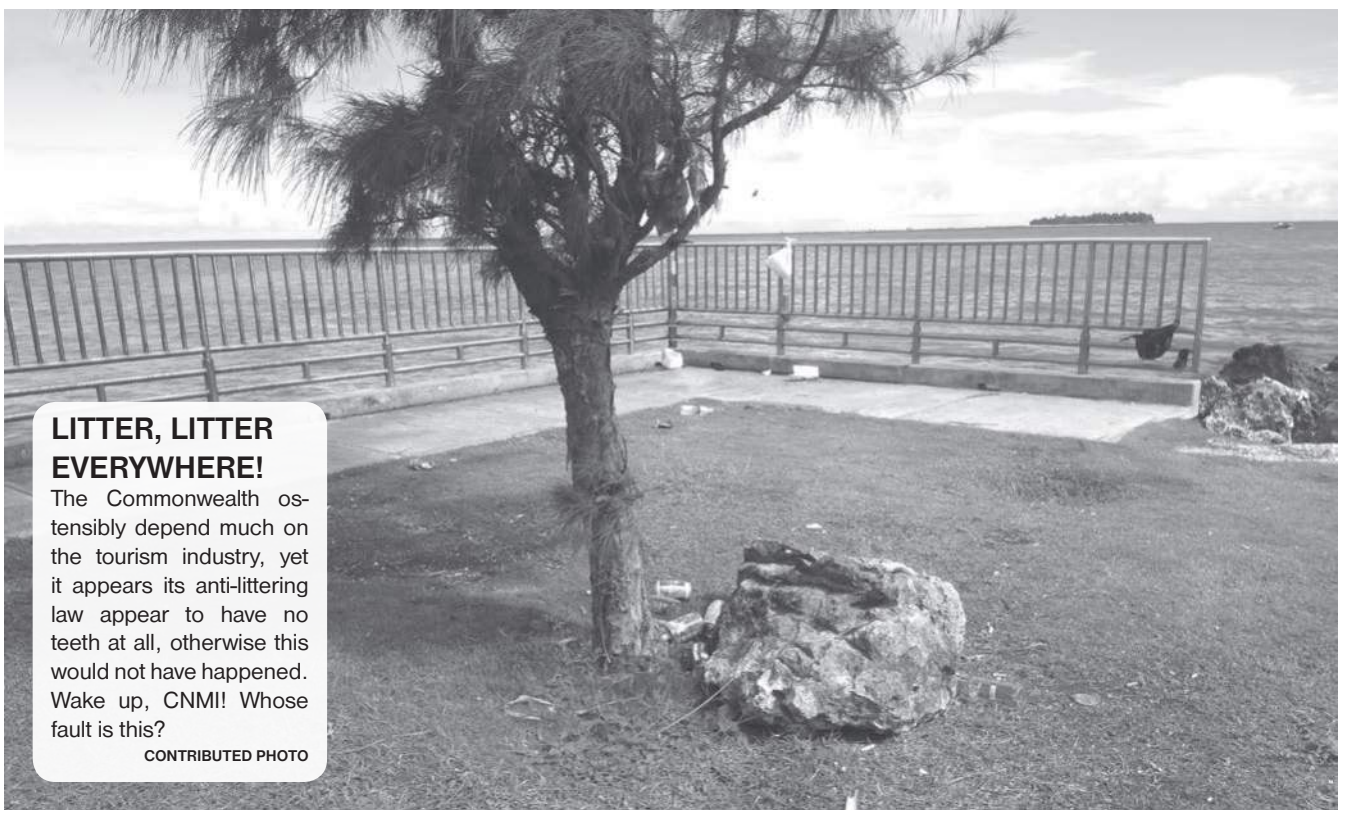
The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation office will be closed today, May 17, 2018, from 7:30am to 12:30pm. There will be a disruption in power services as CUC will be replacing power poles in the vicinity during these times. The office will be open at its regular afternoon hours from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. If there is an urgent matter, call 287-6538. ***(PR)***

Memorial Day proclamation signing

The Office of the Governor's CNMI Military Veterans Affairs Office would like to invite all military members, families, and the public to a proclamation signing on May 21, 2018, at 9am, at the Office of the Governor conference room for the celebration of Memorial Week on May 21-28 and Memorial Day on Monday, May 28, 2018, 9am, at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. ***(PR)***

Nominees sought for MINA's Green Awards

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for this year's Green Award for presentation at the annual Green Gala event slated for Sept. 14, 2018. The deadline for submission of nominees is June 1, 2018. Awards are given in the following categories, and nominations will be accepted from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota: Environmental Champion Award, Environmental Heroes Award, Green Business of the Year. Submit nominations to rguerrero.mina@gmail.com. For additional information, call 233-7333. ***(PR)***



LITTER, LITTER EVERYWHERE!

The Commonwealth ostensibly depend much on the tourism industry, yet it appears its anti-littering law appear to have no teeth at all, otherwise this would not have happened. Wake up, CNMI! Whose fault is this?

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-020

REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF ENGINES 8 AND 4 AT POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, of the removal of the engine frame and alternator assemblies from its foundation, dismantling and further relocation to a designated location as detailed in the bid documents. Both engines have been partially dismantled by the plant personnel.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **60 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non- refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC power plant Conference Room. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-020 - Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 15, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 31, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

AMENDMENT TO THE MAY 15, 2018 PUBLIC NOTICE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials eeting will be held on Friday, May 18, 2018 at 9:30AM at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AMENDED MEETING AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of February 28, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
Project: CAPITOL HILL WONDERLAND
The Palette, Inc. is proposing to develop approximately 20,484 square meters or about 2.05 hectares on private property on Lots E.A. 411 New-1 and 035 E 29 in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The planned development project includes 57 units and a club house as follows:
- Twenty-one (21) villa/units of Standard Housing at 166 square meters per unit;
- Twenty-six (26) units of Master Housing at 249 square meters per unit with terrace;
- Ten (10) units of Luxury Housing at 420 square meters per unit with individual terrace. The four-story Club House will include kitchen areas, theater, reception areas, VIP Café, gift shop, restaurants, and a swimming pool and deck with terraces on the fourth floor.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-051
a) Discussion of Application Status
b) CRM Permit Application Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS
A. Threshold Determination for Proposed Saipan Star Project

IV. ADJOURNMENT
All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

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Business

Hawaii homeowners scramble as volcano spews ash and lava

HONOLULU (AP)—Patricia Deter moved from Oregon to Hawaii to be closer to her two daughters, but the Kilauea volcano burned down her home only a month after she bought it.

Now Deter and others who have recently lost homes to the lava-spewing mountain are on an urgent quest for answers about insurance, desperate to learn whether their coverage will offer any help after molten rock wiped out most of what they owned.

The eruption has destroyed about two dozen homes in the Leilani Estates subdivision on the Big Island.

Authorities on Tuesday reported a new fissure opened in the adjoining Lanipuna Gardens subdivision, bringing the number of cracks in the ground spitting out lava and toxic gas to nearly 20 since the eruption began May 3. Another fissure that opened up last weekend was sending molten rock crawling toward the ocean at about 20 yards (18 meters) per hour. An ash plume from within Kilauea volcano's summit crater rose as high as 12,000 feet (3,658 meters) above sea level, prompting geologists to issue a "red" warning for pilots and air traffic controllers as the ash could disrupt flights.

Few insurance companies will issue policies for homes in Leilani Estates because it is in an area deemed by the U.S. Geological Survey to have a high risk of lava.

But homeowners are not without options. One possibility is the Hawaii Property Insurance Association, a nonprofit collection of insurance companies created by state lawmakers in 1991 to provide basic property insurance for people who are unable to buy coverage in the private market.

The horror of seeing houses turned to ash has motivated some people who had no insurance to scramble to purchase a policy. The association announced last week that it would issue policies to uninsured homeowners in the affected area — but they will have to wait six months.

Some homeowners believe fire coverage will suffice for homes burned by fire from the lava. And a list of frequently asked questions from the Hawaii Insurance Division supports that idea, saying that lava damage may be covered "as a fire peril."

However, there are exceptions. If policies specifically exclude lava damage, the fire coverage will not apply, said Judy Moa, an insurance broker who specializes in catastrophic coverage for Hawaii.

"The cause of damage is lava at the end of the day," she said. "If lava came down the hill, and they have lava exclusion and trees catch fire, which burn the house, that's not covered."

Some homeowners forgo policies that include lava coverage because they can cost more than $3,000 per year, said Moa, who has fielded many calls from anxious homeowners.

The same insurance questions haunt people whose homes are standing but could still be torched by future lava flows.

Todd Corrigan and his wife left their Leilani Estates home on May 4 after a magnitude 6.9 earthquake knocked belongings off their shelves. That jolt convinced them it was time to evacuate.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China, Airbus investigating blown-out windshield on plane

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities and Airbus are investigating why a plane's cockpit window detached during a flight, forcing an emergency landing. Sichuan Airlines Flight 3U8633 was en route from Chongqing, China, to Lhasa, Tibet, on Monday morning when the cockpit window on the A319 jet broke off, according to the website of the Civil Aviation Administration of China. The co-pilot's seatbelt prevented him from being sucked out of the plane. The plane made an emergency landing in Chengdu, China. The co-pilot and a flight attendant suffered minor injuries, but none of the 27 passengers was injured, according to a post from Sichuan Airlines on Sina Weibo, which is China's version of Twitter. Airbus said Tuesday it has assigned a team to investigate and will cooperate with Chinese authorities.

Uber shifts policy for alleged sexual misconduct on service

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Uber's ride-hailing service will give its U.S. passengers and drivers more leeway to pursue claims of sexual misconduct, its latest attempt to shed its reputation for brushing aside bad behavior. The shift announced Tuesday will allow riders and drivers to file allegations of rape, sexual assault and harassment in courts and mediation, rather than being locked into an arbitration hearing. The San Francisco company is also scrapping a policy requiring all civil settlements of sexual misconduct to be kept confidential, giving victims the choice of whether they want to make their allegations public. Nothing in Uber's previous policy prevented its riders and drivers from asking police to open criminal investigations into their accusations. Uber's new approach represents a conciliatory step from CEO Dara Khosrowshahi. He was hired last August amid a wave of revelations and allegations about rampant sexual harassment in Uber's workforce, a cover-up of a massive data breach , dirty tricks and stolen trade secrets.

Wynn Resorts female directors address policies after scandal

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Ahead of Wynn Resorts annual shareholders meeting, the casino operator's four female directors sought to reassure employees the company is committed to moving onto a new chapter following the sexual misconduct scandal that engulfed its founder earlier this year. The directors, three of whom have held their posts for less than a month, on Monday during a forum with employees discussed a variety of topics that ranged from equal pay and diversity to work-family balance at the forum attended by dozens of employees in person and some remotely. Wynn Resorts employs 25,000 people worldwide. Founder Steve Wynn was never mentioned at the event, but the directors addressed the company crisis that erupted in January with the sexual misconduct allegations leveled against him, which he has denied. "I think every company has an obligation at this moment in time to look at its policies and practices and make sure that it's doing everything it can to make sure that employees do feel safe, and Wynn is no exception," new board member Dee Dee Myers told reporters after the forum. "I think having more women on the board just brings a diversity for dialogue."

Nation

Tribes welcome opportunity to add sports book to casinos

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—American Indian tribes are welcoming an opportunity to offer sports betting in potentially hundreds of casinos across the country after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for states to legalize it.

AP

The lobby of the Navajo Nation's Twin Arrows Casino, east of Flagstaff, Ariz., is seen Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

Tribal casinos generate more than $31 billion a year in gross revenue. While adding sports books isn't expected to boost that number significantly, tribes say it's another source to deliver services to tribal members.

"The conversation is always, 'Why don't you do like Vegas?'" said Sheila Morago, executive director of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association. "Everybody always wants to give their customers things they have asked for."

Many tribes give a share of casino profits to states in exchange for exclusive rights to conduct gambling operations. In Arizona, the state's share was about $100 million last year.

Some tribes believe agreements with states already give them the right to control sports betting, while others will work out the details through negotiations in compacts that vary in wording state by state.

"It's going to be important for the tribes that their position as sovereigns and their existing compacts within their states are recognized," said Valerie Spicer, a co-founder of the consulting firm Trilogy Group. "There's still a lot of work left to do."

Nearly 240 tribes operate casinos in more than half of U.S. states under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act or as commercial ventures. Some only have games like bingo or pull tabs that don't need authorization from states. The majority of the roughly 475 tribal casinos have those games and others like slot machines, blackjack and other table games, according to the National Indian Gaming Commission. Sports wagering would fall in the latter category, the commission said.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act on a challenge from New Jersey. The law limited sports betting to four states that met a 1991 deadline to legalize it: Nevada, Delaware, Montana and Oregon.

States now can adopt laws regulating sports betting, though some already have the legal framework in place.

In California, voters would have to approve a change to the state constitution. As is, California tribes have exclusivity in casino-style gambling, and some believe that includes sports betting.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man in custody for vandalism of Israeli flag in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A man accused of splattering red paint on an Israeli flag in Philadelphia has been taken into custody. Laura Frank, an employee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, tells the Philadelphia Inquirer she saw a man standing near the flag with a paint gun on Tuesday and called police. Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney confirmed a suspect was taken into custody and decried the vandalism as hateful. Kenney said "emotions are running high" after Israeli soldiers killed dozens of Palestinians protesting on the Gaza border on Monday. The protests were partly driven by anger over the relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The vandalism suspect's name hasn't been released. The flag hangs along a major boulevard as part of a display of world flags.

Sheriff: Woman pulls gun in dispute outside supermarket

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a woman is accused of pulling a gun on another shopper outside a Florida supermarket after an argument that began in the checkout line. The Leon County Sheriff's Office charged 36-year-old Jessica Mock with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill. The Tallahassee Democrat reported Mock was in a checkout lane at a Publix grocery Sunday but left the line briefly for a forgotten item, returning to find a woman had gotten ahead of the cart she left in line. The sheriff's statement says the two argued and the other woman changed lines but the victim was returning her cart outside the Tallahassee area supermarket. Authorities say Mock then pointed a handgun at the victim. Court records do not list an attorney for Mock.

Girl killed when tree topples onto car during storm

NEW YORK (AP)—An 11-year-old New York girl was killed when a tree toppled onto the car she was in as a line of strong storms moved through the area. Police in Newburg say the girl and her mother had arrived home and were unloading the car when wind knocked the tree onto the vehicle. The girl was pulled from the car and taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. The mother suffered minor injuries. States of emergencies were declared in Putnam, Dutchess, Orange and Sullivan counties, which were hit by strong winds and marble-sized hail. Possible tornadoes were sighted and more 130,000 customers lost power late Tuesday. In New York City, thousands of commuters were stranded in Grand Central Terminal after rail lines were temporarily suspended due to downed trees.

Asia

N. Korea threatens to cancel US summit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Wednesday canceled a high-level meeting with South Korea and threatened to scrap a historic summit next month between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un over military exercises between Seoul and Washington that Pyongyang has long claimed are invasion rehearsals. A senior North Korean diplomat said Pyongyang will refuse to be pressured into abandoning its nukes.

AP

South Korean marine force members look toward North's side through binoculars at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju near the border village of Panmunjom, South Korea, Wednesday, May 16, 2018.

The surprise declaration, which came in a pre-dawn dispatch in North Korea's state media, appears to cool what had been an unusual flurry of outreach from a country that last year conducted a provocative series of weapons tests that had many fearing the region was on the edge of war. It's still unclear, however, whether the North intends to scuttle all diplomacy or merely wants to gain leverage ahead of the planned June 12 talks between Kim and Trump.

North Korea's first vice foreign minister, Kim Kye Gwan, said Pyongyang has no interest in a summit with Washington if it's going to be a "one-sided" affair where it's pressured to give up its nukes.

He criticized recent comments by Trump's top security adviser, John Bolton, and other U.S. officials who have been talking about how the North should follow the "Libyan model" of nuclear disarmament and provide a "complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement." He also took issue with U.S. views that the North should fully relinquish its biological and chemical weapons.

"We will appropriately respond to the Trump administration if it approaches the North Korea-U.S. summit meeting with a truthful intent to improve relations," he said. "But we are no longer interested in a negotiation that will be all about driving us into a corner and making a one-sided demand for us to give up our nukes and this would force us to reconsider whether we would accept the North Korea-U.S. summit meeting."

The North canceled the talks hours before the two Koreas were to meet at a border village to discuss how to implement their leaders' recent agreements to reduce military tensions along their heavily fortified border and improve their overall ties.

It called the two-week Max Thunder drills, which began Monday and reportedly include about 100 aircraft, an "intended military provocation" and an "apparent challenge" to last month's summit between Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, when the leaders met on their border in their countries' third summit talks since their formal division in 1948.

PH Congress urged to reject chief justice's ouster

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Legal groups called on Philippine legislators Tuesday to defend their constitutional power to impeach officials which they said was usurped by Supreme Court justices who ousted the chief judge last week.

Wearing black arm bands, leaders of legal and rights groups staged a protest in front of the heavily guarded Supreme Court in Manila, carrying a streamer that read, "We dissent, resist authoritarianism, oppose attacks on judicial independence." A protester held up the scales of justice, with a mock sword piercing her white gown.

The protesters said the judges' 8-6 vote Friday to remove Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno from the 15-member court violated the country's constitution. They said it robbed the Senate and House of Representatives of their constitutional power to prosecute and try top officials like Sereno.

Sereno was ousted for allegedly failing to file statements of assets and liabilities. She has denied any wrongdoing, but President Rodrigo Duterte and his officials have argued that she breached the law prior to becoming a Supreme Court judge and should not have been designated chief justice by Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, in 2012.

Sereno earned the ire of Duterte by speaking up for respect of law and human rights as he led a brutal crackdown on illegal drugs that has left thousands of suspects dead.

"It's a few unelected justices who are deciding which impeachable officials should be removed," human rights lawyer and former House member Neri Colmenares said in an interview during the protest. "This is one of the worst days and one of the lowest moments not only of the Supreme Court but also as members of Congress."

Jose Manuel Diokno, chairman of the nongovernment Free Legal Assistance Group, said the petition to oust Sereno that was filed by Solicitor General Jose Calida, called a "quo warranto," set the judiciary on a collision course with the legislature and preempted months of impeachment actions against Sereno in Congress.

The House was to vote on impeachment charges accusing Sereno of corruption, breach of public trust and other crimes.

Sereno, 57, was ousted by her fellow justices before the House was able to vote on the charges and send them to the Senate. The Senate was preparing to turn itself into an impeachment court to try Sereno, who had gone on a two-month leave from the court to prepare for her defense.

Even Duterte's allies in the 24-member Senate did not agree with Sereno's ouster by her fellow judges. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said Sereno can only be removed by a congressional impeachment process and called on the Supreme Court to review its verdict.

Asked by reporters what steps the Senate would take, Pimentel said the question should be directed to the House. "The Senate is ready. If (charges) are filed, we will constitute ourselves as an impeachment court," Pimentel said. "The Senate as an impeachment court is passive. We will wait for action by the House."

World

Gaza hospitals struggle to cope with high casualty toll

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Patients with gunshot wounds filled wards and hallways in Gaza's under-equipped and overwhelmed main hospital Tuesday, with dozens still waiting in line for surgery a day after Israeli soldiers shot and killed 59 Palestinians and wounded hundreds in mass protests on the Gaza border.

The high casualty toll triggered a diplomatic backlash against Israel and new charges of excessive use of force against unarmed protesters. The U.N. Security Council began its session Tuesday with a moment of silence for the dead, and the U.N.'s special Mideast envoy said there was "no justification for the killing."

Turkey expelled Israel's ambassador, and several European countries called for an international investigation.

Israel said it has the right to protect its border and nearby communities, accusing Gaza's ruling militant group Hamas of carrying out several attacks under the guise of the protests. The U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Nikki Haley, came to Israel's defense, saying no member "would act with more restraint than Israel has."

Monday's border confrontation was the culmination of a weeks-long protest campaign to break a border blockade that Israel and Egypt imposed after a Hamas took over Gaza by force in 2007. The protests were led by Hamas, but fueled by the growing despair among Gaza's 2 million people who face worsening poverty, unemployment, 22-hour-a-day power cuts and sweeping bans on travel and trade.

A day after the historic opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem, residents woke on Tuesday to a new reality in the contested city. Monday's opening amid bloodshed in Gaza has fuelled global concern that US policies are roiling the region. (May 15)

The protests were also driven by anger over the relocation Monday of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to contested Jerusalem. Palestinians seek Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem as a future capital.

Even before the latest round of bloodshed, Gaza's health system of 13 public hospitals and 14 clinics run by NGOs had buckled under persistent blockade-linked shortages of medicines and surgical supplies. At Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, the main health facility in the strip, these woes were magnified this week.

Anticipating a major influx of casualties ahead of Monday's mass march, Shifa had set up an outdoor triage station under a green and blue tarp in the hospital courtyard, setting up 30 beds and stretchers there.

Throughout the day Monday, Shifa received about 500 injured people, more than 90 percent with gunshot wounds, said hospital director Ayman Sahbani. Of those, 192 needed surgery, including 120 who needed orthopedic surgery, he said.

By mid-afternoon Tuesday, overwhelmed surgeons working in 12 operating theaters had only performed 40 orthopedic operations, with 80 others still waiting their turn.

In the orthopedics department, nerves were frayed Tuesday as relatives worried about wounded family members amid fears their conditions might deteriorate.

Europe, Iran say push to save nuclear deal off to good start

BRUSSELS (AP)—Major European powers and Tehran committed Tuesday to keep working together to save the Iran nuclear deal despite U.S. President Donald Trump's determination to kill it off.

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany said after talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif that salvage efforts focused on economic, business and banking issues could produce "practical solutions in the next few weeks"

"There was awareness of the urgency," Mogherini said after the meeting in Brussels.

"If I can use the metaphor that some raised around the table, we all have a relative in intensive care and we all want to get him or her out of intensive care as soon as possible," she said.

Germany, France and Britain all are signatories of the 2015 deal, which was meant to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. The U.S. pulled out of the pact last week and promised to impose tough economic sanctions on Iran.

Mogherini said "expert talks" on relevant financial and economic issues such as banking transactions and oil would begin soon and the deputy foreign ministers from the three European nations and Iran would meet in Vienna next week.

"We reaffirmed together our resolve to continue to implement the nuclear deal in all its parts, in good faith, and in a constructive atmosphere," she said.

Said Iran's Zarif: "We are on the right track. A lot depends on what we can do within the next few weeks."

The steps forward underscored the EU's hopes that diplomacy and the promise of economic benefits might keep Iran in the fold of a nuclear deal that Europe sees as essential to security.

"It won't be easy, that's clear to all of us. But if we want to stay in this agreement and ensure that Iran stays in this agreement and abides to the terms of the agreement, then we need to talk about this," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said.

At the same time, the European diplomats wanted to show they weren't gullible and wouldn't drop other divisive issues with Tehran, including its role in the Syria conflict.

"I want to stress we are under no illusion about the stuff Iran gets up to in the region, in the Middle East. We have no illusions about Iran's disruptive behavior, but we think we can tackle those in other ways," British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson said.

Mogherini agreed at the end of a long day of diplomatic meetings.

"As you know very well, we have many other disagreements," she said. But, she added, "with the nuclear deal in place we have better chances to address any other issues we have to address with Iran."

Focus

By ARON HELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel at 70:

Contrasting images of victory and violence

JERUSALEM (AP)—Seventy years since the day of Israel's founding, wildly contrasting images of victory and violence showcased the contradictions that bedevil the Jewish state.

Deadly protests flared along the Gaza border, where troops killed dozens of Palestinians, while politicians feted the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem as a symbol of ironclad alliance with Washington. And with improbably odd timing, seemingly oblivious to both, crowds gathered in liberal Tel Aviv to exult over the winner of a campy European pop contest.

Nahum Barnea, Israel's leading columnist, said the events highlighted the country's fragmented nature and how even after seven decades it still cannot escape its conflict with the Arabs or its unquenchable thirst for recognition.

"This is a small country that typically lives only one story, usually either that of readiness for battle or bereavement," he said. "This was really an unusual example of the mythological national campfire coming apart."

Barnea said the Arab threat—or even the perceived threat—has existed since Israel's 1948 founding. And as long as that's the case, he added, there will always be an element of national cohesion.

Monday's violence was limited to the Gaza border area, unlike the full-scale wars of recent years in which missiles rained on Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and that enabled much of Israel to direct its attention elsewhere, Barnea said.

But in Israel, it is difficult to escape the effects of the 50-year occupation of Palestinian territories captured in 1967. Israel's continued control over millions of stateless Palestinians, and years of failed attempts to resolve the conflict, drive political discourse, fuel societal divisions and draw near-daily criticism from friends and foes alike around the world.

Indeed, Israel's two largest cities, which symbolize its two opposing political camps, seemed to be doing their best to ignore the violence and seemingly intractable conflict with the Palestinians.

GAZA BLOODSHED

The heavy Palestinian death toll, along with hundreds of wounded, made Monday by far the bloodiest day of cross-border violence since a devastating 2014 war between Israel and Hamas. It further dimmed already bleak prospects for President Donald Trump's peace plan.

The Gaza protesters set tires ablaze, sending up thick plumes of black smoke, and hurled firebombs and stones toward Israeli troops across the border. The Israeli military, which has come under international criticism for firing on unarmed protesters, said Hamas militants tried to carry out bombing and shooting attacks under the cover of the protests and released video of protesters ripping away parts of the barbed-wire border fence.

It was the culmination of more than a month of weekly demonstrations aimed at breaking a crippling Israeli-Egyptian border blockade. But the U.S. Embassy move, bitterly opposed by the Palestinians, added further fuel.

JERUSALEM FERVOR

In Jerusalem, the Israeli government celebrated the ancient city's Jewish history, Israel's control over it, the president who finally moved the U.S. Embassy there, and the ever-closer ties between the two countries. There was no direct mention of Gaza.

While Israelis overwhelmingly welcomed the embassy move, the ceremony had a distinctly un-Israeli feel about it. The audience was made up mostly of skullcap-wearing Jews and Republican-leaning evangelical Christians who hardly share the values or politics of Israel's secular majority, let alone the liberal-leaning Jewish diaspora.

The speeches were peppered with biblical passages and references to God, and two American pastors with a history of derogatory remarks about other faiths delivered blessings. The Rev. John Hagee once spoke of Adolf Hitler as a hunter sent by God to kill Jews, while the Rev. Robert Jeffress has called Islam and Mormonism "a heresy from the pit of hell" and said Jews "can't be saved."

Still, they were part of the evangelical embrace of Israel that they say stems from Christianity's Jewish roots, and many view Israel's establishment as the fulfillment of a biblical prophecy. In Israel, they have been welcomed by a growing group of religious-nationalist Jews who share their messianic fervor.

"Jerusalem is where Messiah will come and establish a kingdom that will never end. We thank you O Lord for President Donald Trump's courage in acknowledging to the world a truth established 3,000 years ago—that Jerusalem is and always shall be the eternal capital of the Jewish people," Hagee said in his closing benediction. "Let every Islamic terrorist hear this message: Israel lives."

TEL AVIV PARTY

In secular Tel Aviv, the scene could hardly have been more different. Tens of thousands flooded to Rabin Square for the raucous return of Israel's newest folk hero—the charismatic winner of the gay-friendly Eurovision Song Contest. In Israel's cultural and financial heartland, neither the Jerusalem embassy nor the Gaza carnage was even mentioned.

Netta Barzilai, 25, has won over Israelis and Europeans with her techno-dance tune about female empowerment, her message of inclusiveness and a personal story of overcoming adversity. Barzilai's victory, propelled by a European popular vote, was celebrated as proof that Israel could overwhelm those seeking to boycott it over its conflict with the Palestinians. As with any international success, it was part of Israel's quest to project its "normal" image to the world, rather than a place of conflict. And Barzilai used her newfound platform to project unity.

"We are coming together like we haven't in years," she screamed to the adoring crowd. "We have a reason to be happy. Don't let anyone dampen your spirits."

SHORT MEMORY

Amid all the commotion, it was easy to forget that less than a week ago Israel seemed to be on the brink of war with Iran. Israel had just unleashed its most massive bombardment in Syria in decades, targeting nearly all of Iran's military installations there after an Iranian rocket barrage was fired toward its positions on the Golan Heights.

That unprecedented confrontation between the two bitter enemies came only days after Israel successfully hosted the start of the Giro d'Italia cycling race. The first Grand Tour event ever held outside Europe was yet another milestone in Israel's quest for normalcy and acceptance.

Monday's split-screen images captured much of what still plagues Israel: a conflict with no end in sight and two opposing domestic camps trying to ignore it.

"For a single historic second, Israel could ignore the elephant in the room. But we can't really erase the bitter parts of reality," wrote Nadav Eyal in Yediot Ahronot. "We can dance in Rabin Square to celebrate the Eurovision win and to imagine that history and all of its complexities have been shunted aside forever, but they haven't—the Palestinians are still there."

AP
The sun sets behind a mosque and buildings in the Gaza Strip, Tuesday, May 15, 2018. Israel faced a growing backlash Tuesday and new charges of using excessive force, a day after Israeli troops firing from across a border fence killed 59 Palestinians and wounded more than 2,700 at a mass protest in Gaza.

Environment

Insect-gobbling Venus flytrap is at the brink of extinction. Help might be on the way

TNS

The insect-gobbling Venus flytrap, here in a 2004 file image, is under assault by development and poachers on the Carolinas coastal plain, and could soon win the protection of federal endangered species law.

By BRUCE HENDERSON
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—The insect-gobbling Venus flytrap, which is under assault by development and poachers on the Carolinas coastal plain, could soon win the protection of federal endangered species law.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took a first step last December, when it found that a petition to protect the iconic plant presented "substantial" evidence in its favor. Further review is underway.

The petition came from 26 biologists, botanists and plant conservationists. Nine of those experts are from North Carolina, but joining them were plant defenders from as far away as California and the Royal Botanical Gardens in London. Charles Darwin himself pronounced the plant "one of the most wonderful in the world."

The flytrap has been reduced to less than 5 percent of its natural abundance because of its rarity, the scientists say — its carnivorous appetite and because it's found only in small parts of the Carolinas coast and sandhills.

Its native soils are so poor that the plant needs the added nutrition from insects to survive. Its unique ability to lure ants and spiders into an aerial snap trap — jaws that snap shut in the blink of an eye — makes it "the most widely recognized carnivorous plant in the world," the petition says.

Researchers at N.C. State University learned that the plant doesn't eat insects that pollinate it.

But illegal poaching and loss of habitat to development, including the snuffing out of wildfires that help fertilize the plant and keep grasses from shading it out, has left the flytrap at the brink of extinction. Only 42 groups of 500 or more plants exist, and only nine groups have long-term protection.

Poachers have been voracious, routinely digging up 1,000 plants at a time. In 2014, North Carolina legislators made it a felony to steal the plants from four counties.

Poached plants sell for only about 25 cents at local stores and flea markets, Angie Carl of the North Carolina Nature Conservancy told Coastal Review Online. Carl says buyers should instead turn to chain stores, which don't sell plants taken from the wild.

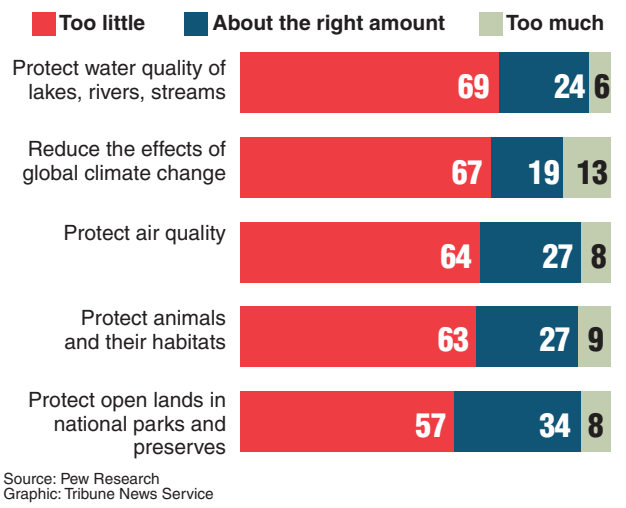
"The place to buy is Walmart or the big-box stores," she said. "They're actually getting them (legally) from tissue culture."

The petition before the Fish and Wildlife Service asks the agency to protect the flytrap on an emergency basis while deciding whether to list it as endangered. If the flytrap is added to the list, the Endangered Species Act would protect habitat that is crucial to its survival, make it illegal to collect the plant and impose fines of up to $50,000 for violations.

Is the government doing enough for the environment?

A Pew Research poll finds that the majority of U.S. adults want more done to protect environment

(%) of Americans who say the federal government is doing _____ in each of the following areas:



Source: Pew Research
Graphic: Tribune News Service

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Dolores Benavente Manibusan

Lovingly known as "Ling/Mama Ling"
Born to life on January 7, 1953 Called to eternal life on May 9, 2018

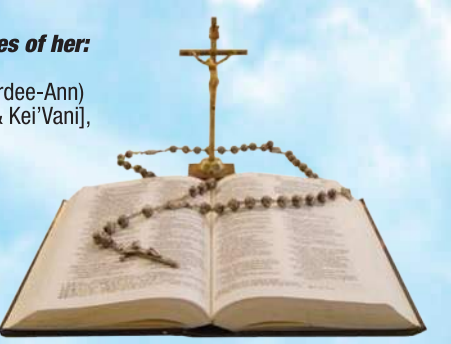
In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Jose Cabrera Manibusan & †Ana Benavente Manibusan
Daughter: †Marla Ann Manibusan Barcinas
Brothers/Sisters : & In-Laws †Fernando Matsunaga, †Frances Manibusan, †Nicolasa M./Vicente Cepeda, †Heronimo P./Candilaria Manibusan, †Rufina M./Pedro Tudela, †Sylvia M./Antonio Cabrera, †Vicente P./Maria Manibusan, †Josepha M./Santiago Camacho, †Rita M./Juan Santos, †Victoria M./Gregorio Sablan, †Abraham P./Bernadita Manibusan, †Luis Manibusan, †Francisco Palacios, and †Casiano Matsunaga
Grandchildren: †Narianne Juvine, †Cisko Jose Codee

She will forever be remembered in the hearts & lives of her:

Children/Grandchildren/Great-Grandchildren:
Randolph Barcinas (Mariah, Randee-Jo, & Mardee-Ann)
Valerie/Ian Romolor (Joseph, Walelia [Josian & Kei'Vani], Kelivia, Noelani, Ian Ignacio II)
Lennie/Rudolfo Hermosilla (Maronica & Coby)

Brothers & Sisters & In-Laws:
Francisco/Nelda Manibusan & Children
Maria/Moses Sibetang & Children
Elsie Matsunaga & Children
Violeta D. Manibusan & Son
Veronica Inocencia Palacios & Children
Lydia/Sen. Paul A. Manglona & Children



She will be greatly missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, God children & close friends.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral and 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Soledad Parish. On Monday, May 21, 2018, her remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 a.m. to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral followed by responso and rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

Thank you and Si Yuus Maase

God Bless,
THE FAMILY

Life & Style

ABC says 'Roseanne' will concentrate on family, not politics

NEW YORK (AP)—Expect "Roseanne" to cool it on politics and concentrate on family stories when it returns for the second season of its revival next year.

That was the word Tuesday from ABC Entertainment chief Channing Dungey as she introduced the network's plans for next year. The show's return exceeded all expectations this spring, with the support of Roseanne Barr's character for President Donald Trump attracting attention.

Dungey noted that as the first season went on, the focus shifted from politics to family.

"I think they're going to continue on the path that they were on toward the latter part of this season, which is away from politics and more focused on family," she said.

There may be good business and creative reasons for that. Asked if she was concerned that Barr's opinions might affect how viewers perceive the show's content, Dungey replied, "I do think there is a little bit of that, yes."

This image released by ABC shows Roseanne Barr, left, and John Goodman in a scene from the comedy series "Roseanne." AP

Last year, ABC's cancellation of Tim Allen's "Last Man Standing," another comedy with a conservative-leaning star, provoked social-media protests. Channing said Tuesday that the decision was solely based on ABC's inability to come to contract terms with their studio partner—and she wished the show well in its new home at Fox, which picked it up for next season.

MAKE 'EM LAUGH

Jimmy Kimmel punctuated ABC's presentation of its fall schedule to advertisers with the scathing humor that's become a staple of the annual event.

He spread the punchlines around, with his home network among the targets. Noting the cancellation of "Marvel's Inhumans," Kimmel said that ABC "did something remarkable .... we managed to have the only unsuccessful project with the word 'Marvel' in the title."

Lamenting hit-making producer Shonda Rhimes' decision to move from ABC to Netflix, Kimmel graciously lauded her as "an amazing talent and person who changed the face of this network" with dramas including "Grey's Anatomy" and "Scandal."

And on behalf of everyone at ABC, he added, "We hope she rots in hell."

He moved on to the trend of series reboots, including the return of "Roseanne" to ABC.

"Everyone who says Hollywood is out of new ideas, we're not. It's just that one of our new ideas was to Google, 'What were our old ideas?'" Kimmel said. He noted that CBS is resurrecting another past hit, "Murphy Brown," then slammed the older-skewing competitor.

"CBS knows what millennials want, and they'll be damned if they'll give it to them," he said.

MAKE 'EM LAUGH, EXECUTIVE VERSION

In his remarks to advertisers, Disney-ABC Television Group President Ben Sherwood acknowledged how much the ratings success of Barr's comedy means to ABC.

"If anyone came to play a drinking game based on how many times we said 'Roseanne,' you're welcome," Sherwood.

The ABC star they picked to open the presentation was—easy guess, Barr.

SO WHAT'S NEW?

A whopping total of eight new series will roll out on ABC's schedule next fall and midseason, including five dramas and three comedies.

One of the hour-long shows, "A Million Little Things," is about a group of friends who get a "wake-up call" to embrace life after one of them dies. It sounds on paper like an interconnected-lives show akin to NBC's new drama, "The Village," about residents in a New York apartment building. And that seems to echo NBC's hit "This Is Us." Must be a coincidence.

One new show stars a familiar ABC face: Nathan Fillion, formerly of "Castle." This time around, he plays a small-town, middle-aged man with a dream of becoming a Los Angeles police officer in "The Rookie."

"If you don't know me, I'm probably a big deal to your mother," a self-deprecating Fillion joked to advertisers during ABC's presentation at Lincoln Center.

Another ex-ABC star, Eva Longoria of "Desperate Housewives," is producing, not acting, for "Grand Hotel," about a luxurious, family-owned hotel in Miami Beach. Mexican film star and Oscar nominee Demian Bichir leads the ensemble cast.

Sentencing in Bill Cosby's sex assault case set for Sept. 24

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby will be sentenced Sept. 24, almost five months to the day after he was convicted of sexual assault, a judge said Tuesday.

Lawyers for the comedian, who turns 81 in July and faces the prospect of the rest of his life in prison, had asked Judge Steven O'Neill to delay sentencing until the end of the year.

Cosby's convictions on three counts of aggravated indecent assault will likely be combined into one charge that carries a standard sentence of five to 10 years in prison.

Cosby's spokesman did not immediately respond to a message left seeking comment.

The man once revered as America's Dad has been a prisoner in his suburban Philadelphia mansion since his April 26 conviction and he hasn't been heard from since lashing out at a prosecutor in court that day.

O'Neill ordered Cosby be outfitted with a GPS monitoring bracelet and said he needed permission to leave the home, where jurors concluded he drugged and molested Andrea Constand in January 2004.

Even then, Cosby can go out only to visit his lawyers or the doctor.

Before sentencing, Cosby must undergo an assessment to determine if he is a sexually violent predator. Because of his conviction, he will also be required to register as a sex offender under Megan's Law.

Constand, a former Temple University women's basketball administrator, is expected to speak at sentencing. O'Neill said in a court order the hearing could take two days.

Constand testified at Cosby's trial that the comedian knocked her out with three blue pills he called "your friends" and then penetrated her with his fingers as she lay immobilized, unable to resist or say no.

Cosby claimed the encounter was consensual, saying he gave her the cold and allergy medicine Benadryl to relax. His lawyers have vowed to appeal, but that can't happen until Cosby is sentenced.

In Pennsylvania, defendants are typically sentenced within 90 days of a conviction. O'Neill initially said he would schedule Cosby's sentencing for July. His court order did not explain why he moved it to September.

Constand's testimony and that of five other accusers allowed prosecutors to uncloak Cosby—who solidified his reputation as a family man by playing Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show"—as a manipulative predator who used his built-in trust to trick women into taking powerful intoxicants so he could violate them.

One woman pointedly called Cosby a "serial rapist," and another asked him through her tears, "You remember, don't you, Mr. Cosby?"

O'Neill has yet to rule on whether he'll identify the jurors who convicted Cosby, even though the state Supreme Court has long held that juror names should be made public under the First Amendment.

Singing the blues: Study of pop music finds rise in sadness

NEW YORK (AP)—A study of hundreds of thousands of popular songs over the past three decades has found a downward sonic trend in happiness and an increase in sadness, as the chirpy band Wham! gave way to the moody Sam Smith.

For the report in the journal Royal Society Open Science, researchers at the University of California at Irvine looked at 500,000 songs released in the UK between 1985 and 2015, and categorized them according to their mood.

"'Happiness' is going down, 'brightness' is going down, 'sadness' is going up, and at the same time, the songs are becoming more 'danceable' and more 'party-like,'" co-author Natalia L. Komarova told The Associated Press.

Of course, the researchers emphasize that a gradual decrease in the average "happiness" index does not mean that all successful songs in 1985 were happy and all successful songs in 2015 were sad. They were looking for average trends in the acoustic properties of the music and the moods describing the sounds.

Some songs with a low happiness index in 2014 include "Stay With Me" by Sam Smith, "Whispers" by Passenger and "Unmissable" by Gorgon City. Some from 1985 with a high happiness index include "Glory Days" by Bruce Springsteen, "Would I Lie to You?" by the Eurythmics, and "Freedom" by Wham!

"The public seems to prefer happier songs, even though more and more unhappy songs are being released each year," the researchers wrote. They also found the most successful genres of music were dance and pop, as well as a "clear downward trend" in the success of rock, starting in the early 2000s.

The overall mood shifts in the songs' musical features mirror other studies that have examined lyric changes over the years. They have found the use of positive emotions has declined and indicators of loneliness and social isolation have increased.

"So it looks like, while the overall mood is becoming less happy, people seem to want to forget it all and dance," emailed Komarova, who wrote the report with Myra Interiano, Kamyar Kazemi, LijiaWang, Jienian Yang and Zhaoxia Yu.

The researchers also found that the "maleness" of songs—the frequency of male singers in popular music—has decreased over the last 30 years. "Successful songs are characterized by a larger percentage of female artists compared to all songs," they write.

That finding comes at a time when the music industry is wrestling with the issue of gender inequality, and men overwhelmingly dominate the ranks of artists and songwriters.

'Solo: A Star Wars Story' touches down in Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—The Han Solo spinoff "Solo: A Star Wars Story" touched down Tuesday at the Cannes Film Festival, bringing its cast and a full-sized Chewbacca to the French Riviera extravaganza.

Director Ron Howard, wearing a hat that read "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away," introduced his cast before the film's international premiere at Cannes.

Stormtroopers stood in formation as star Stars Alden Ehrenreich, Donald Glover, Emilia Clarke, Woody Harrelson and "Chewbacca" actor Joonas Suotamo posed for photographers to promote the biggest Hollywood blockbuster at this year's festival.

AP

From left, actors Joonas Suotamo, Thandie Newton, Woody Harrelson, director Ron Howard, actress Emilia Clarke, actor Alden Ehrenreich, actor Donald Glover, a person dressed as the character Chewbacca, and actor Paul Bettany pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Solo: A Star Wars Story' at the 71st international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

Lebanese actress Manal Issa used the premiere's massive spotlight to draw attention to the deaths of Palestinian protesters a day earlier at the Gaza border. She held up a sign that said, "Stop the attack on Gaza!!" before the premiere.

Thandie Newton wore a custom dress with images of black Star Wars characters, including Finn, Mace Windu and Saw Gerrera, to the premiere.

"Yeah, I mean it was, we haven't seen the film with audiences and that's great right off the bat. And people loved it," Newton said after the premiere.

Howard described watching the film at Cannes as a "blast," calling it "a great jumping off place for a movie like ours."

"Solo" is the third "Star Wars" film to land at Cannes, following "Attack of the Clones" in 2002 and "Revenge of the Sith" in 2005.

It will be released in France on May 23, two days before its release in the United States.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Photos of Kurt Cobain's death scene will not be made public

SEATTLE (AP)—The Washington State Court of Appeals has ruled that photographs from the scene of Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain's death will not be released publicly. KING5-TV reports the court ruled Tuesday that the photographs are exempt from Washington state's Public Records Act and releasing the photos would "violate the Cobain family's due process rights under the 14th Amendment." Cobain's widow, Courtney Love, and his daughter who was a toddler at the time of his death, Frances Bean Cobain, filed testimonies to keep the photos from being made public. The ruling comes after Seattle journalist Richard Lee appealed the case's dismissal. Lee has pursued the release of 55 photos in an attempt to prove Cobain did not die from suicide in 1994, but rather was killed.

Romania in royal wedding fever: grandson of late king to wed

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Royal wedding fever is catching on in Romania. Though not for that royal wedding. Nicholas Medforth-Mills, the only grandson of the late King Michael, confirmed Tuesday in an interview with Digi 24 TV he would marry aviation public relations consultant Alina-Maria Binder after dating for more than two years. The couple revealed that Medforth-Mills proposed to Binder on a weekend break to Cornwall in southwest England. He wrote "I love you. Marry me" in the sand. He later gave her a diamond and sapphire engagement ring. The wedding will take place on Sept. 30 in an Orthodox church in Sinaia, the town where Michael was born. Medforth-Mills, 33, was disinherited by Michael in 2015 following reports he fathered a child outside of wedlock. He reconciled with the royal house before Michael's funeral last year. The communists forced Michael to abdicate in 1947.

Stevie Wonder to perform 5 shows at Las Vegas strip resort

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Musician and singer Stevie Wonder will perform a series of shows in Las Vegas in August. Casino giant MGM Resorts International and entertainment company Live Nation Las Vegas announced Tuesday that Wonder will play five shows at the Park Theater starting Aug. 3. The 5,300-seat venue is located at the Park MGM casino-resort, formerly known as the Monte Carlo. It hosted the residencies of Cher and Ricky Martin. Tickets start at $69 and go on sale May 21. The 68-year-old musician announced last week he'd be playing a series of shows in Las Vegas and elsewhere in the coming months that celebrate life, love and music and push back against troubled times.

Honors for Iraq vet, K-9 portrayed in film 'Megan Leavey'

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A U.S. Marine Corps veteran and the military dog she served with during the Iraq War have been inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame. Cpl. Megan Leavey and a German shepherd named Sgt. Rex were wounded by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2006. The story of their service and Leavey's fight to keep Rex after returning to the U.S. was told in a 2017 movie starring Kate Mara as Leavey. The Marine successfully battled military red tape to bring home Rex, who died in December 2012. Leavey and Rex were among the 61 veterans from across the state who were honored by senators at the inductions held Tuesday in the Legislative Office Building in downtown Albany.

DJ Khaled is the top nominee for the BET Awards with 6

NEW YORK (AP)—DJ Khaled has reason to be grateful—he's been nominated for a leading six trophies for the BET Awards. The nominations for next month's ceremony were announced Tuesday night. Among the awards Khaled was nominated for include album of the year for "Grateful" and video of the year for "Wild Thoughts" which featured Rihanna and Bryson Tiller. Other top nominees include Migos and SZA, both of whom were nominated for four awards. Bruno Mars, Drake, Beyonce, Jay-Z, Cardi B, and Chris Brown are also up for key awards. Recent Pulitzer Prize-winner Kendrick Lamar is among the nominees for best album, and he's got competition from himself, for his "Black Panther" soundtrack. The blockbuster is also nominated for best movie along with "Girls Trip" and "Wrinkle in Time," among other films. Tiffany Haddish is nominated for best actress along with the likes of Issa Rae and Lupita Nyong'o, while Michael B. Jordan faces off against Chadwick Boseman and more for best actor. Venus and Serena Williams are among the nominees for sportswoman of the year while LeBron James and Steph Curry are among the sportsman of the year nominees. The BET Awards will air live on BET on June 24 from Los Angeles.

Tension mounts for tired mom who gets little help from dad

DEAR ABBY: I am a working mother of three who may be battling postpartum depression. I feel like I am parenting alone. I get the kids out of the house by myself in the morning before my husband even drags himself out of bed. I drop the kids off. I go to work.

I teach, so my day is spent dealing with other people's kids, and then I pick my own kids up. I have no time to decompress or devote to myself.

When there are school functions, my husband makes me feel guilty that I'm not spending time with the kids. Now he's starting to make me feel guilty because the kids like him less than they do me. How do I get across to him that if he did more and was around them more, they would like him more?

I'm so tired from juggling all these balls. I feel like if something were to happen to me, he'd have no clue what to do. How can I fix this situation? I don't want to resent him, but I'm starting to.

EXHAUSTED, HOT MESS MOM

DEAR MOM: Postpartum depression is more than being tired and overscheduled. It's a medical condition that, left untreated, can have serious consequences.

It might help to discuss what's going on with your physician, who can then help you explain to your husband that if he doesn't step up, he could indeed be left with the sole responsibility of taking care of the children. You're right. You shouldn't be carrying the whole load, and the bonus would be the likelihood that your husband's relationship with the children would improve.

DEAR ABBY: I have two daughters, and we don't always see eye to eye. I think one of them is emotionally abusive because she is so critical about everything having to do with me.

The problem is I have wonderful grandkids who are very young. I would love to see them grow up, but I'm able to see them only perhaps 24 days out of the year. I feel lonely knowing my daughter and her husband are so close yet so far because they're too busy with their lives to let me interact with my grandchildren.

I do have my own things to do and I am active, but I would love a change of scenery after two marriages. I would love to visit new places and make new friends and build a new life for myself. But I wonder if it would be abandoning my grandchildren. I could still visit them two to three times a year from wherever I end up.

I have sacrificed all my life doing the right things by putting others first, and I'm afraid that if I don't travel now or live somewhere else, I may not be well enough later on. What do you think is a good solution for me?

AT A CROSSROADS IN MINNESOTA

DEAR AT A CROSSROADS: I agree you should move.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Absence may make the heart grow fonder, but if it doesn't, at least you will have a chance to live your dream. Take it while you're young enough to enjoy it, and video chat with the grandkids.

READER ALERT! If you know a student who would like to enter the $5,000 Dear Abby College Columnist Scholarship contest, see the information on DearAbby.com and learn more. The deadline is fast approaching.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

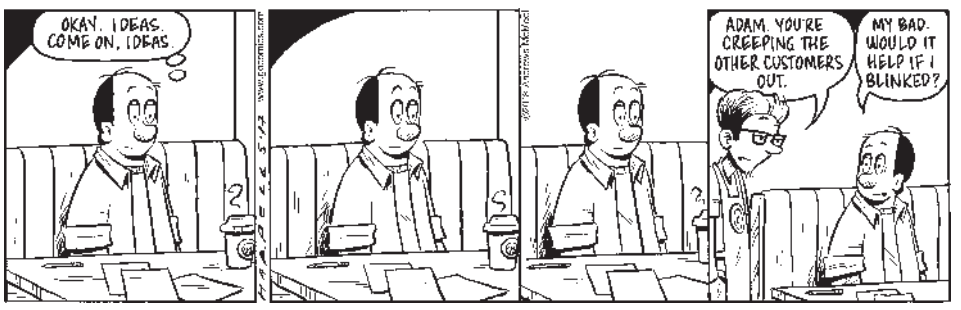
I HAD NO IDEA BINOCULARS WERE SO EXPENSIVE! WE'RE DOOMED! WE'RE DOOMED!
"WE"?
WHY IN THE WORLD DID DAD LET ME USE ANYTHING SO VALUABLE?! HE SHOULD'VE KNOWN I'D BREAK THEM! HE MUST'VE BEEN OUT OF HIS MIND! THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD JUST TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED..
..AND MAKE MY GETAWAY WHEN THE CORONARY HITS? SAY, THAT'S AN IDEA!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

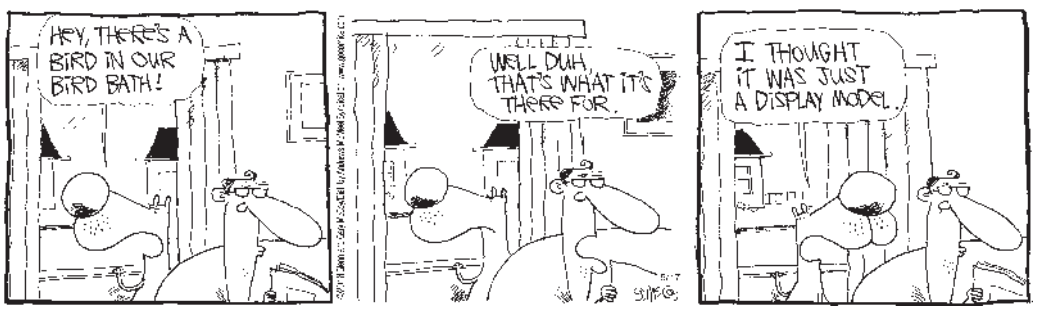
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Frozen" snow queen
5 Chanteuse Edith
9 Martini ingredient
12 Active one
13 Capri, for one
14 GI entertainers
15 Green party dip
17 Small batteries
18 Geologic layers
19 Awkward, in slang
21 Opposite of nyet
22 Plains grazers
24 Olympic sled
27 "Kapow!"
28 Chopped
31 Perfume label word
32 Buck-eyes' sch.
33 Scooted
34 Port of Algeria
36 Poetic contraction
37 Art film theater
38 — Ark
40 Ma's mate
41 Shrimp's kin
43 Join with a lead-tin alloy
47 Fun and games
48 Neighbor of Honduras
51 Music's Yoko
52 Jealousy
53 Wax-coated cheese
54 Yr. parts
55 Fury
56 Lairs

DOWN
1 Early birds?
2 Lummox
3 Blacken
4 Video-game hub
5 Fine cotton
6 Equal (Pref.)
7 The whole enchilada
8 Nourishes
9 Famed violin maker of Cremona
10 Author Dinesen
11 Prying
16 One-time link
20 Sound of delight
22 Foundation
23 Radio host Don
24 Sign before Virgo
25 Eg. and Syr., once
26 Llama-like animals
27 This and that
29 Pallid
30 Away from SSW
35 At once
37 Placated
39 Wrath
40 "The Bells" author
41 Senior moment?
42 Gambling mecca
43 Eyelid woe
44 Florida county
45 Flair
46 Runs (into)
49 Italian article
50 Batter's stat

Solution time: 24 mins.

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B	I	A	S		Y	I	N		F	R	A	Y
A	Z	T	F	C		G	F	M		A	R	F
		E	J	A	M		A	A	H			
M	O	D	U	L	E		T	R	I	V	I	A
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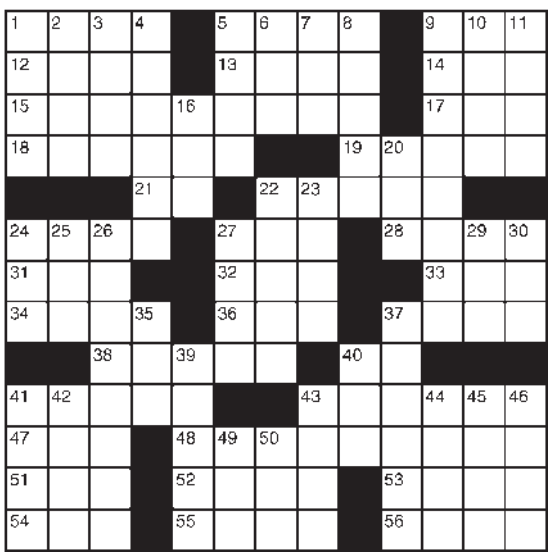
O	N	E	S		A	R	K		D	E	N	S

Yesterday's answer 5-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nikki Reed, 30; Derek Hough, 33; Trent Reznor, 53; Bob Saget, 62.

Happy Birthday: You'll find it difficult to make the right decision this year if you let your anger step in and take over. Practicality will play a big role when it comes to competing against someone who has maintained a steady pace and even temperament. Treat opposition with diplomacy, and use your stamina to bring you good fortune. Your numbers are 6, 18, 22, 27, 34, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Touch base with an old friend or relative. The information you share will be eye-opening and lead to some unexpected changes that will encourage you to take an active role in the way things unfold in your personal and professional life. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Try not to conflict with those who aren't heading in the same direction. Use your resources to help you stay on track until you get what you want. Reconnecting with someone from your past will change your life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get motivated and get moving. Express your feelings and make decisions that will help you sort out any unfinished personal business that needs to be taken care of. Walk away from anyone asking for too much or taking advantage of you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Find a unique way to help others. Offering suggestions and bringing about changes that will make it easier for others to contribute to what you are trying to accomplish will help you reach your goal. Make a statement and stick to it. ✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be tempted to follow someone. If you want a change, do something that will benefit you. Simplicity and moderation should be honored no matter how tempted you are to go over budget. Physical improvements can be made. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need to get out more. Try new things, sign up for a course or go to networking functions that will bring you in contact with people who share your interests and concerns. Gather facts by talking to an expert. ✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you want something, put a little energy behind achieving your goal. Hard work will pay off, and a physical effort to get what you want is the best way to reach your objective. Romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get involved in the creative process behind something you want to do; you will gain respect as well as hone the skills you need to conquer your goals. Embrace the unusual and manipulate things to work in your favor. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't believe everything you hear. Be cautious when it comes to partnerships and sensitive issues that could easily backfire on you if handled improperly. Aim for stability. Be a trendsetter. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen and you will be given information that will allow you to bring about positive changes at home and in your community. Don't expect everyone to want to follow your plan. Don't waste time on those who don't. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You don't have to overspend to make a point. Live within your means and offer insight and good advice if you want to get something done on time. A personal change will boost your ego, and romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful how you handle personal matters, children and domestic affairs. You'll face someone who is a master manipulator, making you question what you are doing. Don't put up with ultimatums or interference. Make your own opportunities. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, playful and opportunistic. You are intense and particular.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		6				4	
		9	7	1			5	
							8	7
8		5					1	
	6					7		3
9	4							
	7			5	2	9		
	8				1		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	8	5	2	4	3	7	6	9
4	9	7	5	1	6	3	8	2
6	2	3	9	8	7	4	5	1
7	3	1	8	5	9	6	2	4
8	6	4	3	2	1	5	9	7
2	5	9	7	6	4	8	1	3
5	1	8	4	7	2	9	3	6
9	4	6	1	3	8	2	7	5
3	7	2	6	9	5	1	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BROBDINGNAGIANS **Solution: 8 letters**

L	L	A	S	S	O	L	O	C	N	A	M	U	H	A
O	A	E	G	M	A	M	M	O	T	H	L	T	E	E
F	R	Y	V	A	E	H	C	R	U	A	O	R	I	Z
T	G	D	A	O	R	B	A	R	N	M	A	G	G	I
Y	E	G	U	H	N	V	E	O	E	R	I	L	H	S
S	T	R	I	D	E	W	I	H	L	A	A	L	T	R
A	S	H	U	L	O	T	E	B	N	U	T	T	J	E
L	E	E	G	T	C	B	L	T	S	I	D	U	I	V
U	O	V	A	I	N	I	H	U	L	K	M	N	R	O
S	N	I	F	S	M	E	N	G	I	B	V	E	A	E
N	A	S	D	P	I	U	V	C	O	A	S	T	G	L
I	C	S	N	W	I	D	E	D	L	R	O	W	E	P
N	L	A	A	R	I	S	E	N	A	T	I	T	M	O
E	O	M	R	T	E	E	F	O	L	K	L	O	R	E
P	V	R	G	I	N	O	R	M	O	U	S	H	I	P

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Adventure, Area, Arise, Behemoth, Big, Blimp, Broad, Coast, Colossal, Creature, Feet, Fictional, Folklore, Giant, Ginormous, Grand, Heavy, Height, Huge, Hulk, Human, Jumbo, Land, Large, Lofty, Mammoth, Massive, Mega, Mighty, Novel, Oversize, Peninsula, People, Ratio, Seaside, Ship, Stride, Titan, Tower, Travel, Unusual, Volcanoes, Wide, World

Yesterday's Answer: Captured

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Location:
Closing Date: 05/30/18
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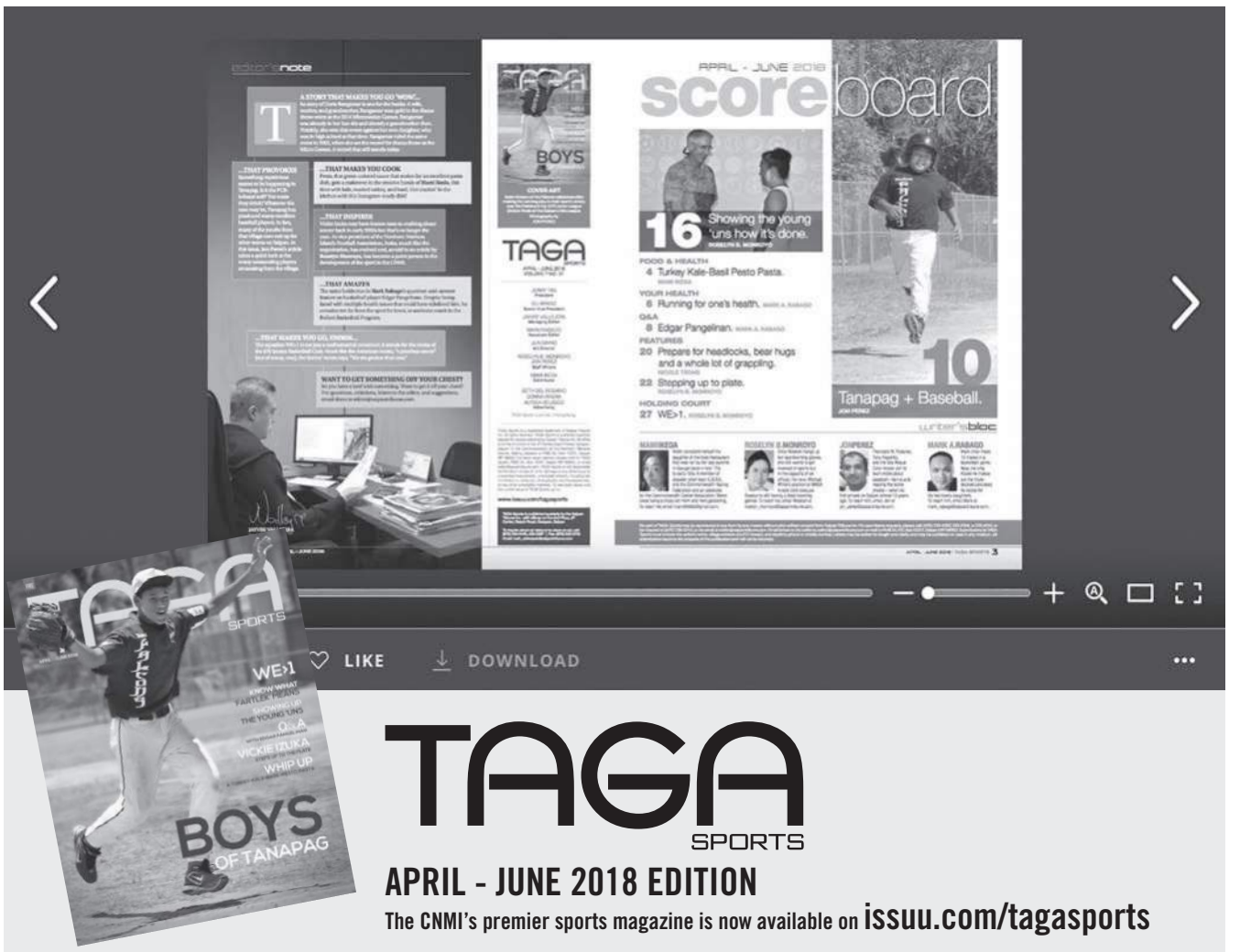

WHATZIT Solution: Laughing gas

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Cubs throw out 2 runners at home, nip Braves

AP
Atlanta Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman (5) is tagged out by Chicago Cubs catcher Willson Contreras (40) in the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 15, 2018, in Atlanta.

ATLANTA (AP)—Willson Contreras threw one away, then made the tag at home plate to keep the Braves off the scoreboard in the very first inning.

Turns out, the Chicago catcher was just getting warmed up.

Contreras threw out runners at home and third during a wild fifth inning, and the Cubs rallied for two runs in the ninth to stun first-place Atlanta 3-2 on Tuesday night.

"We'll take it," Chicago manager Joe Maddon said.

This one really stung for the Braves, who were coming off a 6-1 road trip that propelled them to the best record in the National League.

They were fuming after two questionable calls on the basepaths in the fifth ruined a potentially big inning.

"We've been winning most of those games," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "It's not going to go your way all the time. We'll be fine."

After Ronald Acuna Jr. broke a 1-1 tie with a mammoth homer in the eighth , the Cubs bounced back against Atlanta closer Arodys Vizcaino. Back-to-back doubles by Albert Almora Jr. and Addison Russell tied it at 2, and Ben Zobrist came through with a two-out, run-scoring single off Vizcaino (1-2).

Carl Edwards Jr. (2-0) earned the win despite surrendering Acuna's homer over the 400-foot sign in center field. Brandon Morrow got the final three outs for his 10th save.

Chicago's Yu Darvish returned from the disabled list after a bout with the flu, only to work just four innings because of cramping.

Marlins 4, Dodgers 2

In Miami, the Los Angeles Dodgers went 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position against Wei-Yin Chen and four relievers and were beaten by a last-place team for the fifth straight game, losing to the Miami Marlins.

The NL champions managed only five hits after being swept in a four-game series at home by woeful Cincinnati. Alex Wood (0-4) lost despite allowing only one earned run in six innings for the Dodgers (16-25), who are off to their worst start in 60 years. Miami (15-26) could pass them by sweeping the three-game series.

Padres 4, Rockies 0

In San Diego, Jordan Lyles came (1-1) within five outs of a perfect game and the first no-hitter in San Diego history before allowing Trevor Story's single.

Lyles then walked Pat Valaika and made way for Kirby Yates. Brad Hand got four outs to complete the one-hitter and earn his 12th save.

San Diego is the only major league that without a no-hitter. The Padres have played 7,858 games since their expansion season of 1969.

Pirates 7, White Sox 0

In Pittsburgh, Trevor Williams (5-2) scattered six hits in seven innings, and Adam Frazier homered to start a four-run first.

Chicago has lost eight of nine and 12 of 14, dropping to a major league-worst 10-28. The White Sox have matched the poorest 38-game start in team history, in 1948.

Reynaldo Lopez (0-3) gave up six runs and seven hits with two walks in two-plus innings.

Tigers 9, Indians 8

In Detroit, JaCoby Jones homered and doubled, and Detroit rallied in a five-run seventh as Andrew Miller (1-2) allowed two inherited runners to score and gave up two runs of his own. Pete Kozma hit a tying, two-run double, and Miller walked John Hicks with the bases loaded.

Cleveland led 4-0 on Brandon Guyer's first-inning grand slam and 8-4 before Detroit rallied for its third straight win. Miller faced six batters, giving up two doubles and three walks while getting one out.

Twins 4, Cardinals 1

In Minneapolis, Bobby Wilson hit his first home run since Sept. 21, 2016, for Tampa Bay, a two-run drive off Luke Gregerson that capped a three-run seventh.

Jose Berrios (4-4) surrendered one run on two hits and struck out 10, leaving after hitting Kolten Wong with a pitch with one out in the eighth.

Addison Reed struck out both batters he faced and Fernando Rodney retired three straight batters for his eighth save.

Rays 6, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Jonny Venters (1-0) got two outs for his first victory since Sept. 27, 2012, while with Atlanta against the Mets. The left-hander had been out since 2012 due to four major elbow surgeries, including three Tommy John operations, before returning to the majors this season.

Joey Wendle singled in a run with two outs in the ninth against Kelvin Herrera (1-1).

Alex Colome worked a spotless ninth for his eighth save. The Royals lost their fourth straight and sixth in seven.

Athletics 5, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Stephen Piscotty homered in his first at-bat after being reinstated from the bereavement list and saluted his late mother as he crossed home plate, helping lead the Oakland Athletics to a win over the Boston Red Sox in a game delayed almost two hours because of weather.

Piscotty, who returned to the A's Tuesday after missing four games to be with his family, drove an 0-2 pitch from Eduardo Rodriguez out to left in the second inning.

Neuer makes Germany's initial World Cup squad; Petersen, too

DORTMUND, Germany (AP)—Germany included injured captain Manuel Neuer in its preliminary World Cup squad on Tuesday, striker Nils Petersen was a surprise call-up, and Mario Goetze was left out altogether.

Neuer, who hasn't played since September because of a hairline fracture in his left foot, was one of four goalkeepers to be selected as Germany coach Joachim Loew gives him every chance of proving his fitness for the tournament in Russia.

"We've been in constant contact with Manuel. He's now taking a full part in training in Munich. We want to observe him ourselves to form an impression and will be able to do that at the training camp," Loew said of the side's preparations in South Tyrol, Italy, from May 23. "But you cannot go into such a tournament without match practice."

Loew will need to present his final squad selection to FIFA by June 4.

Loew opted for Petersen over Bayern Munich forward Sandro Wagner, giving the Freiburg player his first call-up to the national team after an excellent season.

Petersen helped his club stay in the Bundesliga with 15 goals in 32 league appearances, eight of those as a substitute.

"He got 15 goals with a team that does not create many goal chances. He has always made a very good impression. And apart from that he is a very good substitute," Loew said of Petersen.

Leipzig's Timo Werner will be the first-choice forward in Russia.

Marco Reus was also selected, but Borussia Dortmund teammate Goetze was left out. Goetze scored the winning goal in the 2014 World Cup final.

"It wasn't his best season. He wasn't able to show his incredible quality. Personally, I'm very sorry for him," Loew said of Goetze.

The buildup to the squad announcement was overshadowed by photos of midfielders Mesut Ozil and Ilkay Gundogan presenting jerseys to Turkey president Recep Tayyip Erdogan in London at the weekend.

German soccer federation president Reinhard Grindel criticized both players, who have Turkish roots, for posing for the photos, saying Erdogan's repressive control did not correspond with the values cherished by the DFB or football.

Grindel struck a more conciliatory note on Tuesday, saying, "People can make mistakes and we have to keep things in perspective. Both know that they made a mistake. Some (of the reaction) seems to be over the top to me."

Germany will begin its World Cup defense with group games against Mexico, Sweden and South Korea.

Messi: It would be 'terrible' to see Neymar at Real Madrid

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Barcelona star Lionel Messi says it would be "terrible" to see his friend and former teammate Neymar signing for Real Madrid.

Messi told TyC Sports on Tuesday that "it would be terrible, for all that Ney means to Barcelona."

He added that "it is OK that he went the way he did, he won an important title here, he won the Champions League, won the Spanish league. But to end in Real Madrid would be a hard blow for us and for Barcelona fans."

Neymar, who is recovering from a foot surgery after an injury in February, left Barcelona last summer after Paris Saint-Germain paid a record transfer fee of 222 million euros. But he has been linked with a move to Madrid this summer after just one year in France.

Meanwhile, Barcelona has given its backing to FIFA's plans to expand the Club World Cup to a 24-team competition played every four years.

Barcelona's board of directors says the expanded tournament would be "exciting, dynamic, inclusive and prestigious."

The Liga champion regards as favorable the subsequent elimination of "two FIFA competitions, the Confederations Cup (for national teams) and the current Club World Cup" played every year by seven clubs in December.

Barcelona says FIFA's plans would also "create a global platform for clubs to contribute to the growth of their brands."

Rival Spanish powerhouse Real Madrid has also said it likes the proposal.

Celtics survive LeBron's 42-point night, take 2-0 lead

BOSTON (AP)—Jaylen Brown scored 23 points and the Boston Celtics withstood a 42-point night by LeBron James to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 107-94 on Tuesday and take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Terry Rozier added 18 points, while Al Horford finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Boston improved to 8-0 this postseason at TD Garden. The Celtics have never blown a 2-0 series lead in the playoffs.

James added 12 assists and 10 rebounds. He scored 21 of Cleveland's 27 points in the first quarter , tying his playoff career high for points in a period. His 42 points marked his fifth 40-point game of this postseason. James had just 15 points and missed all five of his 3-point attempts in the Cavs' Game 1 loss.

But he didn't seem to play with the same force after straining his neck in a first-half collision and the Cavaliers wilted in the second half, with the Celtics outscoring them 59-39.

Kevin Love finished with 22 points and 15 rebounds for Cleveland.

As expected, Tristan Thompson started in place of Kyle Korver in the hopes his presence could energize what was a sluggish Cavs offense in Game 1. Thompson got Cleveland's first basket of the night and helped to limit Horford's effectiveness on the inside early on.

Korver added 11 points off the bench for Cleveland. But starters Thompson, JR Smith and George Hill combined for just 11 points on 5-of-17 shooting.

Tempers flared with 3:49 to play with Boston leading 97-89. Marcus Morris got in Smith's face after Smith pushed Horford in the back to prevent a layup. Smith shoved Morris and the pair had to be separated.

Smith was assessed a flagrant foul and both received technical fouls.

Boston's balanced attack was effective again, with six players reaching double figures. Cleveland had 15 turnovers leading to 13 Boston points. The Celtics turned it over just six times.

Boston led 84-77 after three quarters and took command late in the fourth with the Cavs getting little offense other than from James. Cleveland's starters were pulled with 1:48 left and the Cavs down 14. They sat more than seven minutes to conclude Game 1.

James was on the attack from the opening tip. He turned the ball over the Cavs' first possession. But it was one of his only miscues in the first quarter.

James was also astoundingly efficient, using his dribble to create space, while he knocked down an assortment of jump shots.

He finished the opening quarter 8 of 13 from the field and 4 of 7 from the 3-point line.

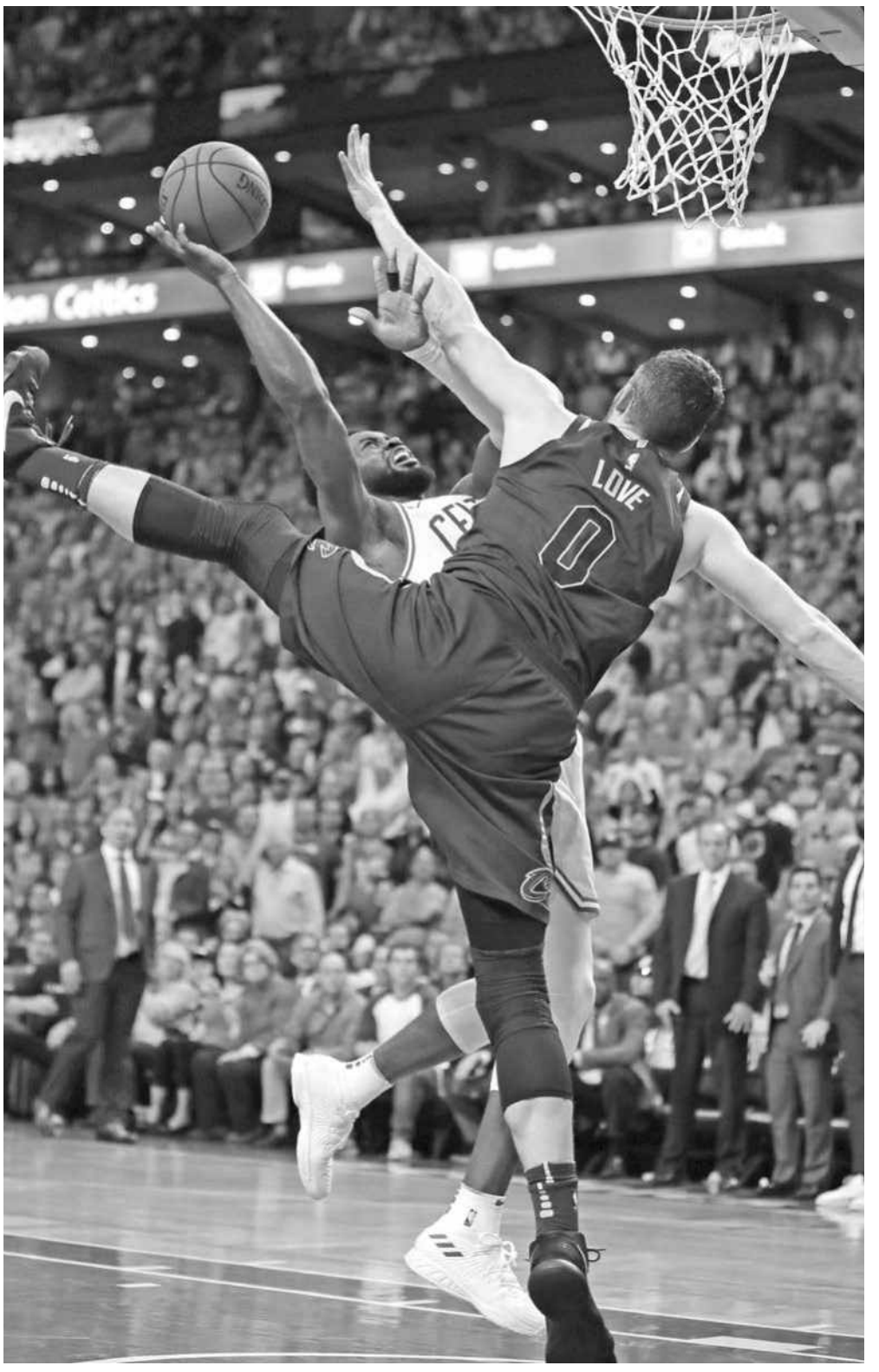
His momentum was stunted briefly at the 3:50 mark of the second quarter, when Tatum was whistled for a foul after catching James jaw with his shoulder as he attempted a steal. James stayed in the game and connected on one of his ensuing free throws, but then exited to the locker room with Cleveland leading 47-36.

The Cavaliers said James had a neck sprain. He returned after missing less than two minutes of game time.

Boston flurried just before the half, getting six points from Morris in the final minute to trim Cleveland's lead to 55-48 at the break.

Trailing 61-52 after a basket by Love, the Celtics scored seven straight points to make it 61-59, then used a 15-7 spurt to take 74-71 lead, their first of the second half. The two runs included 11 points by Rozier and six by Morris.

Game 3 is Saturday in Cleveland.



AP

Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown, rear, drives against the defense of Cleveland Cavaliers center Kevin Love during the second half in Game 2 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals Tuesday, May 15, 2018, in Boston.

Rockets have much to improve going into Game 2 vs Warriors

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets have plenty of things to fix after squandering their coveted home-court advantage in the Western Conference finals.

Tops on their list: limiting turnovers, eliminating open 3s and making things tougher on the Golden State Warriors—particularly Kevin Durant.

"Kevin Durant and (Stephen) Curry, they're good. So they're going to make" shots, Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Our head can't explode that they go one-on-one and make shots ... you have to be able to absorb some of their greatness; at the same time, don't make the mental errors that we did. That would accumulate for 15, 20 points, and that's the difference in the game."

Some almost sounds like the Rockets will have to play almost perfect beat the Warriors. They wouldn't go as far as to say that, but James Harden, who scored 41 in Game 1, did say that at this level the margin for error gets razor thin.

"It's the (conference) finals," he said. "There's four teams here for a reason. Obviously these four teams have done great things all year. You can't make the same mental mistakes like you're in a regular season."

There were plenty of Rockets miscues in Game 1.

They coughed up the ball 13 times on Monday and the Warriors outscored the Rockets 18-3 on fast break points en route to a 119-106 victory. Klay Thompson scored 28 points and made 6 of 15 3-point attempts on a night Harden lamented that about 10 of those looks were wide-open. Thompson's performance came on top of Durant scoring 37 points, mostly by knocking down long 2's when he was matched up against smaller defenders.

That said, what the Rockets won't do in Game 2 on Wednesday night is change what they've done all year and what led to them winning a franchise-record 65 games in the regular season to earn the top-seed.

"We are who we are, and we're pretty good at it," D'Antoni said. "We can't get off who we are. Embrace it. Just be a better (version) of who we are and don't worry if somebody else solves the puzzle a different way ... we've got to play at our strengths."

For the defending champion Warriors, they masterfully answered the challenge of opening a playoff series on the road for the first time since 2014. After falling behind by nine points early in front of a raucous Houston crowd, they settled down and led for most of the second half en route to the victory.

But playing in a franchise-record fourth straight conference finals, the Warriors know that they can't let up after wrestling homecourt advantage away from the Rockets.

"That was a big win. We're not going to downplay it," Thompson said. "But we're not satisfied. We have a golden opportunity tomorrow to take a good lead."

Suns win draft lottery, right to pick No. 1 next month

CHICAGO (AP)—Phoenix general manager Ryan McDonough was on stage moments after the NBA draft lottery ended, talking about the future of the Suns and mentioning how they had the best odds of picking No. 1 overall.

And then he stopped to correct himself.

"We have No. 1," McDonough said. "I've got to adjust to that."

It's an adjustment that he and the Suns will happily be making.

The worst team in the league this season will pick first in the NBA draft on June 21, after the Suns won the draft lottery on Tuesday night. It's the first time the Suns will have the chance to make the first overall selection.

"It's great for our franchise," said McDonough, whose club went 21-61 this season and missed the playoffs for an eighth consecutive year. "It's something that you say coming into it, you don't have any control over it so you're not going to get nervous. And I was here dying. I could barely breathe. I needed an oxygen tank."

The Suns have three great candidates for No. 1, all with ties to either Arizona or new Phoenix coach Igor Kokoskov. Arizona freshman center Deandre Ayton is widely expected to be a strong candidate to go No. 1 overall, and he was at the lottery to watch the Suns win the pick. So was Duke's Marvin Bagley III, an Arizona native.

And Kokoskov is particularly familiar with Slovenia's Luka Doncic, who will be coming to the NBA from Real Madrid. Kokoskov coached Slovenia—and Doncic—to the gold medal at the European championships last summer.

"We have a small target grouping in mind, but we're not going to rule anything out at this point," McDonough said. "I think we'll have a great choice, no matter who we select."

The Suns were big winners.

So were Sacramento and Atlanta.

Sacramento will pick No. 2 and Atlanta got the No. 3 pick—both of them moving up and bucking some odds to get there. The top three spots were determined by the lottery, and then spots 4-14 fell in line of reverse order of record.

Sacramento had a 18.3 percent chance entering the lottery of moving into the top three, while Atlanta's move-up was really just a slightly bigger upset than a coin-flip—the Hawks came into the night with a 42.3 percent chance of getting picks 1, 2 or 3.

"No big deal. It's a deep draft," Kings vice president and general manager Vlade Divac said. "We're going to do our job and obviously, I'm glad that we played the last two years to develop guys and try to win games. You cannot develop guys if you don't teach them how to win."

Sweep for Kanoa teams; TanHoldings blanks Shirley's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

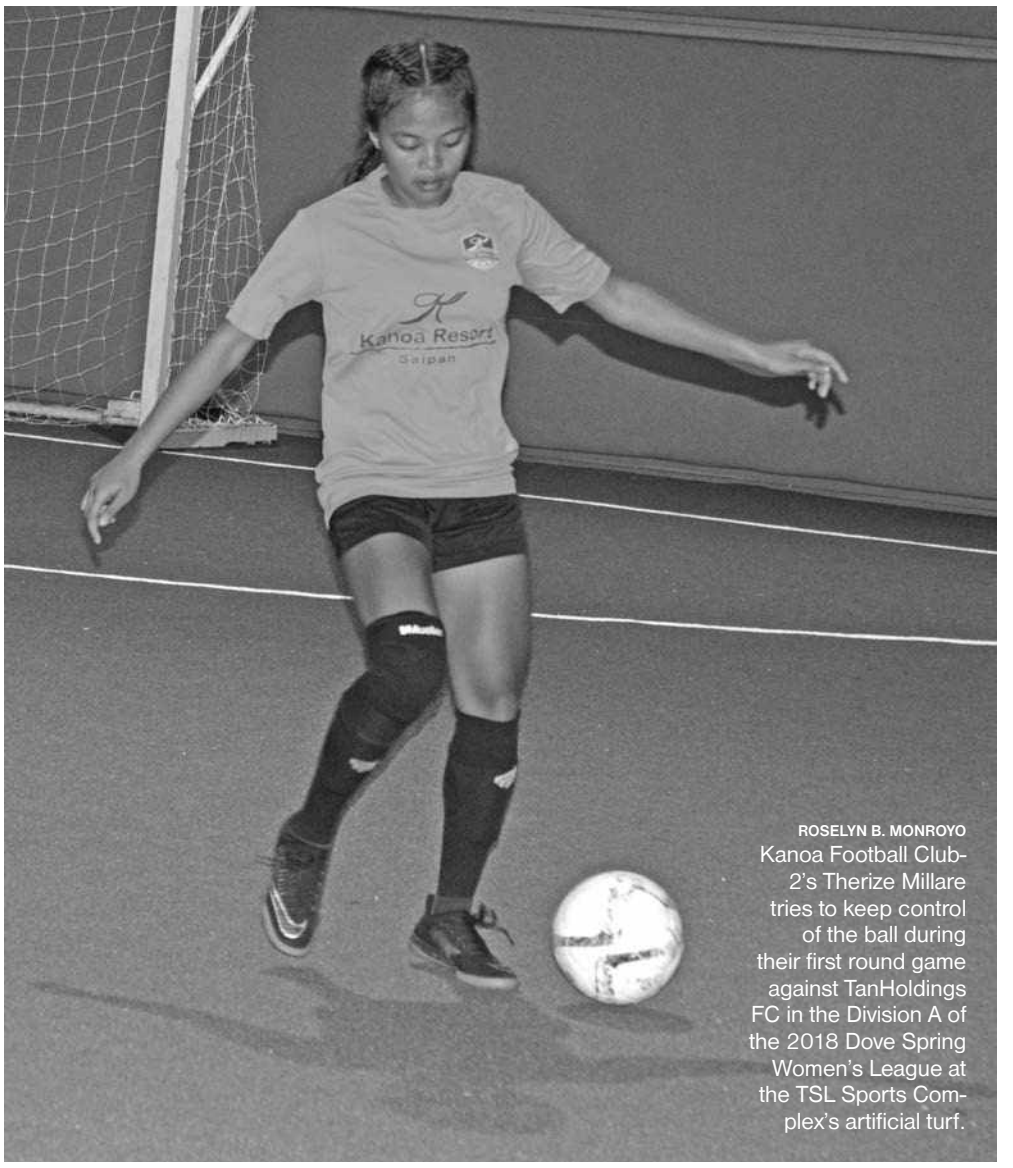
Kanoa Football Club teams triumphed in Division A games in the 2018 Dove Spring Women's League, while TanHoldings clobbered Shirley's in a make-up match in Division B last week.

Kanoa-2 recorded the first win for the club last Thursday at the TSL Sports Complex's artificial turf after dominating TanHoldings in the curtain-raiser, 5-1, while Kanoa-1 nosed out Paire in the second match, 6-5.

Shairmaine Francisco delivered the winning goal for Kanoa-1, as she scored in the 39th minute or two minutes after Gillian Villagomez equalized for Paire. Francisco posted a hat trick against Paire, as she also found the back of the net in the seventh and 26th minute. Paulynn Joyce duplicated Francisco's feat after hitting her target in the third, 11th, and 36th minute.

Jerlyn Castillo also nailed three goals for Paire after lighting up the board in the first, fourth, and 10th minute, while Britanny Wally registered the other goal for the losing squad in the fifth.

With the close win, Kanoa-1 stays on top of the five-team field with its unbeaten 6-1-0 record, while Paire is still in second place after dropping to a 4-0-3 mark.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club-2's Therize Millare tries to keep control of the ball during their first round game against TanHoldings FC in the Division A of the 2018 Dove Spring Women's League at the TSL Sports Complex's artificial turf.

Kanoa-2 (3-1-2) is ranked third following its easy victory over TanHoldings (1-0-5).

Jeralyn Castillo and Therize Millare earned two goals each for Kanoa-2, while Sue Ann Huevos made one. Jenny Ann Capayas handed TanHoldings its lone goal in last week's match.

Meanwhile, in a make-up game at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field last Saturday, TanHoldings shut down Shirley's, 5-0.

Kaithlyn Chavez and Stephanie Flores drilled two goals apiece for TanHoldings, while Alyssa Mae Angeles contributed one. TanHoldings notched only its second victory in five games, while Shirley's has yet to enter the win column in Division B after five matches.

Standings As of May 16, 2018

Division A

CLUBS	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa FC-1	7	6	1	0	40	28	12	19
Paire FC	7	4	0	3	43	27	16	12
Kanoa FC-2	6	3	1	2	32	25	7	10
Shirley's FC	6	1	0	5	20	30	-10	3
TanHoldings FC	6	1	0	5	5	30	-25	3

Division B

MPU-1	6	4	1	1	15	5	10	13
MY Pros	5	3	1	1	11	5	6	10
TanHoldings FC	5	2	1	2	14	8	6	7
Paire FC	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
MPU-2	6	1	2	3	5	10	-5	5
Shirley's FC	5	0	2	3	1	17	-16	2

Tepper to buy Panthers for record $2.2 billion

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Carolina Panthers are being sold for an NFL-record $2.2 billion.

Hedge fund manager David Tepper has agreed to buy the Panthers from team founder Jerry Richardson, two people familiar with the situation said Tuesday. The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team has not yet announced the sale.

The purchase is subject to a vote at the NFL owners meeting next week in Atlanta.

Richardson announced in December he was selling the team amid an NFL investigation into sexual and racial misconduct in the workplace. That decision came after a report by Sports Illustrated detailing Richardson's alleged misconduct.

The league's investigation into the allegations is still ongoing.

The price tag is the most ever paid for an NFL franchise, eclipsing the $1.4 billion the Pegula family paid to purchase the Buffalo Bills in 2014.

Ben Navarro, the founder and CEO of Sherman Financial Group, was considered Tepper's biggest competitor in the bid to purchase the Panthers. He conceded Tuesday that he'd lost the bid.

"My family and I are grateful to have had the opportunity to be included as a potential buyer of one of the premier assets in all of the Carolinas—the Panthers football team," Navarro said in an email to The Associated Press. "It would have been a privilege to become the stewards of this iconic franchise to ensure its home remains in the Carolinas where it belongs, to establish a new era of leadership and excellence on and off the field, and to leverage the team's NFL platform to further our quest to help all children gain access to a great education."

KOBLERVILLE

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victory when they clocked in at 1:21.7 in the boys U7's 4x100m relay race and defeated Agape Christian School's Yanglei Ou, Reuviel Escarlan, Scott Shi, and Benjamin Cai, who timed in at 1:33.09.

In the girls U7 division, Tinian's Kaisa San Nicolas, Prescilla Roldan, Janean King, and Ysabella Lenteja combined for 1:24.07 to finish ahead of KES' Sapalyn Apas, Joretia Limes, Aaliyah Cosmes, and Melvina Helfin (1:26.50) and William S. Reyes Elementary School's Dannah Ciano, Eligh Castro, Cela Managan, and Mikena Cruz (1:42.70).

In the boys U9, KES submitted 1:15.45 to beat WSR's 1:16.76, while the former's girls team recorded 1.13.64 to also win over WSR and Agape, which posted 1:26.04 and 1:26. 65, respectively.

Koblerville's boys U11 squad, which was made up of Kobe Imperial, Monico Claridads, Jezpher Navarro, and Slymark Defang, had the fastest time in the elementary relay race with its 1:04.07 to beat San Vincente (1:05.18) and WSR (1:05.38). The Umang's girls crew duplicated the boys team's feat after logging 1:06.13 and placing ahead of San Vicente (1:07.79), Brilliant Star School (1:08.28), WSR (1:16.32), and Agape (1:23.02).

In the middle school division, Hopwood Middle School and Tinian Junior and Senior High split took the top honors in the boys and girls U13 races with the former clocking in at 55.04 second and the latter recording 1:00.62. Hopwood won over four other schools, while Tinian defeated five other teams.

In the high school races, Hopwood also triumphed in the boys U15 (55.37 seconds), while Saipan International School (59.49 seconds) ruled the girls field against Dandan (1:01.76), Hopwood (1:03.26), Agape (1:06.40), and Seventh Day Adventist (1:07.93). In the boys division, Hopwood edged Dandan (56.23), Agape (56.99), Francisco M. Sablan Middle School (57.30), and SDA (57.79).

For the boys U18 division, the favored Saipan Southern High School (N-nes Siech, Traven Quitugia, Cobe Santos, and Nehem Fernandez) lived up to expectations after submitting 49.78 seconds and winning over Marianas High School (50.04), Agape (50.35), and Tinian (50.64). In the girls field, MHS won its faceoff against Agape with the former registering 57.82 seconds versus the latter's 1:05.34).

Meanwhile, Koblerville swept the U7's 4x400m relay races and added the girls U9 to its collection of first place medals, while WSR prevailed in the boys U9 and U11, and San Vicente topped the girls U11 age group.

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Gabriel James Capati of Garapan led the awardees, which also include San Vicente's Jared Borja, Koblerville's Anthony Austria, WSR's Rizza Relucio, GTC's Pia Ngewakl, and Oleai's Jonathan Wennio.

The NEA League (formerly NEA Cup) is a competition for student-players who are discovered through the National Elite Academy and NMIFA's grassroots program. NMIFA coaches and staff visit schools in the afternoon and teach and train selected students. Schools then form teams and they play in a series of tournaments to gauge the students' development since getting into the program.

Garapan's champion team is made up of (aside from Capati) Jim Jared Bisek, Darren Babauta, Arif Khan, Mark Hapdei, Kenny Laquian, Khristian David, Elvin Saimon, Kristoffer Pascual, Jereme Quimzon, Ashley Claire Sablan Shoemake, and Jasmeng Kaipat.

MHS

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competition with their two other defeats recorded against Grace Christian Academy and Marianas Baptist Academy.

"We knew the game against MCS was going to be tough and we respect their players for putting up a good fight. We really had to strategize and learn about their weaknesses and strengths. What helped us snatch the championship trophy were our optimism and drive to win. I knew that we had weaknesses too, such as our team's mentality, but the night before the championship, I told my players to focus on the game and be there for each other—motivate one another. The game could've favored either teams, but I believe our players leveled up their game during the finals. It also helped that we received an overwhelming support from our school, as students, staff, and teachers came and cheered us," Feliciano said.

Ryan Relucio, one of the players on the MHS roster, also acknowledged the support they received from the MHS family.

"We were able to win the game because of the support system we had, from our coaches who ensured that we were focused throughout the game to our whole school that cheered us on throughout the season and most especially during the championship game. We all felt hyped by the cheers from our supporters during the game and that helped us a lot," Relucio said.

He also took note of the team's chemistry and the challenge presented to them as they played against private school teams in the month-long competition.

"The dynamics and chemistry of our squad were there throughout the season since majority of the players from the squad that won last year's tournament were still present and we had several new members that perfectly fit into the squad. Our team had a common goal and we all knew what it was and we were able to execute. Just like what Alan Hinson, who was the championship MVP, said to us after the game—it was a team effort," the MHS senior said.

"All the private schools gave us a good game, especially MCS," Relucio added.

Joining Relucio and Hinson on the champion squad are team captain Benji Seman, Eunsyu Hahn, Jerico Castro, John Costales, Kaystone Norech, Logan Mister, Jimmy Blancia, Ryutaro Litulumar, Nilo Calimag, and Andrei Manalo.

2018 Saipan Little League Baseball Minor Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kagman Marlins players and coaches are joined by IT&E CNMI marketing manager Natashia Tomokane, standing left, for a group photo after the Minor division championship game in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The IT&E and Robert Torres-sponsored Marlins defeated the NSA Braves in the finals, 6-3.

Kagman Marlins players and coaches tip their hats to the spectators and supporters after their title win against the NSA Braves.

The Kagman Marlins catcher and an NSA Braves runner look at the umpire on the mound after a series of exciting plays in their championship game.

A Kagman Marlins batter waits for a pitch from the NSA Braves' Javen Camacho.

The Kagman Marlins' Jake Faisao, right, gets a high-five from their coach after scoring a run at the top of the fourth inning.

An NSA Braves batter hits a low ball.

A Kagman Marlins batter concentrates, as he waits for a pitch from the NSA Braves' Javen Camacho.

An NSA Braves pitcher throws from the mound.

Cubs throw out 2 runners at home, nip Braves

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Sports

Celtics survive LeBron's 42-point night, take 2-0 lead

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MHS beats Mt. Carmel in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School foiled Mt. Carmel School's bid for a pair of volleyball titles after sweeping the Knights in the finals of the 2017-2018 All Island Championship last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mt. Carmel entered the inaugural All Island duel with the hopes of winning another championship after beating Saipan International School in the finale of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League, 25-10, 25-18, last Friday. However, the Dolphins spoiled the Knights' double celebration after recording a 25-22, 25-16 win in their title showdown.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas High School players, coaches, and their cheering squad celebrate their victory over Mt. Carmel School in the 2017-2018 All Island Championship last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Though it took MHS only two sets to prevail against MCS, Mark Eleazar Feliciano, who along with Jerret Rosario coached the winning team, said downing the Knights was a tough task, especially after they lost to the same squad during the regular season of the private school league. MHS had a 10-3 record in the private school

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Koblerville, Tinian stand out in relay runs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School owned the 4x100m relay run in the elementary division, while Tinian Elementary School foiled an Umang sweep at the conclusion of the 2018 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex oval.

Koblerville prevailed in the 4x100m relay run in the boys U7, boys and girls U9 and U11, while Tinian took the top honors in the girls U7 age group.

Montrea Elewel, E.J. Mality, Vince Eusebio, and Jephda Hong handed KES its first

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Koblerville Elementary School runner keeps her pace during one of the relay races in the 2018 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last weekend at the Oleai Sports Complex oval.

GES rules NEA League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School clinched the championship in the 2018 NEA Spring League after prevailing against Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in the finals, 4-2, last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

The victory was sort of an upset for Mallards, as they topped GTC, which ruled the preliminary round after posting an 8-2-0 win-draw-loss record. Garapan finished second going into the playoffs with its 8-1-1 mark, while William S. Reyes Elementary School (6-0-4), and Koblerville Elementary School (3-2-5) were ranked third and fourth, respectively, to complete the Final Four cast. San Vicente Elementary School (2-1-7), and Oleai Elementary School (0-0-10) were eliminated.

Garapan went on to advance to the title match after outlasting WSR, 2-1, in the semis game at Pitch B, while over at Pitch A, GTC dominated Koblerville in the other Final Four tiff, 4-1. WSR and Koblerville ended up playing in the consolation game with the Kingfishers winning, 4-2, to join eventual champion Garapan and runner-up GTC in the podium. San Vicente and Oleai also played last Saturday for fifth place with the former recording a 3-1 victory.

Garapan was awarded the trophy for reigning supreme in the spring season, while the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Football Association also recognized the individual top performers from each team, handing them the Elite Player awards.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Teams and volunteer coaches in the 2018 NEA Spring League pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the competition last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.